

KIRKMAN • WALKER • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME TWO

EIGHT IS ENOUGH

Introduction by Erik Larsen

image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE

EIGHT IS ENOUGH



CREATED BY
**ROBERT KIRKMAN
& CORY WALKER**

image

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Writer, Letterer

Robert
Kirkman

Penciler, Inker

Cory
Walker

Colorist

Bill
Crabtree

CHAPTER TWO

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Colorist

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Penciler, Inker

Cory Walker

Colorist

Bill Crabtree

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TERRY STEVENS

PENCILER & INKER

RED RUSH SEQUENCE

MATT ROBERTS

PENCILER

TONY MOORE

INKER

WAR WOMAN SEQUENCE

MARK ENGLERT

PENCILER

ERIK LARSEN

INKER

AQUARUS SEQUENCE

DAVE JOHNSON

PENCILER & INKER

GREEN GHOST &

MARTIAN

MAN SEQUENCE

CLIFF RATHBURN

PENCILER & INKER

CHAPTER FOUR

Writer, Letterer

**Robert
Kirkman**

Penciler, Inker

**RYAN
OTTLEY**

Colorist

**Bill
Crabtree**



INVINCIBLE INTRODUCTION

by Erik Larsen

Robert Kirkman has inextricably wormed his way into my life.

It started out innocently enough. Robert was a rabid Savage Dragon enthusiast and he'd arranged to interview me for some nitwit Internet outfit. I saw no reason to say no figuring that any publicity was good publicity and all the rest. The introduction having been made, Robert took his first step toward wiggling himself irreversibly into my life.

Robert was, at the time, working on a little independent book called Battle Pope in which he had taken a few of the themes I'd touched on in Savage Dragon and nudged them a few steps further in the direction of poor taste. Robert had the notion of sticking Savage Dragon into a yarn and managed to talk me into it. Another step.

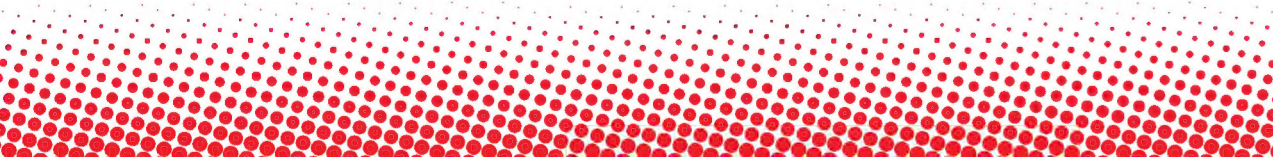
Robert offered to haul my exhausted carcass to the airport after a convention in Chicago. It took him a week and a half to find the place but we arrived nevertheless, I miraculously made my flight and I was forever in his dept.


It was just where he wanted me.

I'm not sure what possessed young Cory Walker to dash off a splendid SuperPatriot pinup for inclusion in an issue of Savage Dragon but in all likelihood Robert put him up to it. Robert Kirkman and Cory Walker were all set to pitch a

book called Science Dog to Image and Robert most likely thought it would be a dandy notion to get in the good graces with one of the founding fat-heads over at that half-assed organization.

The ploy worked. Both Jungle Jim Valentino and Erroneous Eric Stephenson were enthusiastic about said pulse-pounding pinup. They



A decorative header consisting of a dense pattern of red dots of varying sizes, arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and texture, fading out towards the top of the page.

weren't quite as taken with the scintillating Science Dog pitch but thought it might be a good start for these fine fellows if I could convince them to perhaps do something with SuperPatriot while they brainstormed on a more Image-worthy effort.

Like I had to twist their arms...


I let the boys loose on SuperPatriot, giving them only the smallest suggestions to help guide them on their way. They batted out a spiffy miniseries in two shakes of a lamb's tail to the thunderous applause to everyone that happened across it.


It was solid entertainment for the funnybook dollar right out of the gate.

Robert's next step was pointing me in the direction of Mighty Mark Englert. Mark had taken it upon himself to begin illustrating an unused plot for an abandoned miniseries that I'd printed in the back pages of an issue of Savage Dragon. It was a way for him to scrape some samples together to try and break into this beastly biz. Mark would have, no doubt, shown me his energetic efforts himself at an upcoming comic book convention but Robert beat him to the punch and added yet another feather to his cap in the process. Offering to letter the story Mark had pencilled once I'd arranged to have it run in Savage Dragon only helped ingratiate himself to me.

By this point, Robert was practically family. I'd have invited him over to Thanksgiving dinner if I thought that it would balance the books but I suspected my wife wouldn't stand for his sorry sucking up related shenanigans. Besides, that kid looked like he could put away more than his fair share of turkey.

When it was decided that Image would launch a few new superhero books, Robert and Cory concocted a character called Invincible. As it turned out, their prodigious project needed no push from me. I could

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A decorative border at the top of the page consisting of a dense pattern of red dots of varying sizes, creating a halftone or stippled effect.

score no brownie pointclaiming to have horsewhipped those inbred idiots at Image into picking up their book—the fine folks at Image central had nothing but high praise for their peerless pitch. They made that perfectly clear and green-lit their marvelous mag in a heartbeat and a half.

But I owed Robert Kirkman. I knew it and he knew it.
And he wouldn't have it any other way.


Robert has often said to me, "I'm stealing all of your moves" but I'm so far in his debt how could I begin to get pissed? *Invincible* was, as they say, a critical hit. Critics adored it even though some retailers neglected to order it in suitable numbers. Still, it had a good buzz about it, sales were climbing and people seemed to genuinely love the gook. Stealing my moves or not, Robert was making all the right moves. In a short while Robert was adding other Image titles to his ever-growing Image workload.


Cory, on the other hand, seemed to have hit a wall. Pages came slower and slower. The pressures of a monthly book were something Cory was not prepared for.

The book began to fall behind schedule.

In short order Cory ground to a near halt and it became apparent that he wasn't going to continue. Robert, with Cory's blessing, called in a few favors. Enter: me, Mark Englert and a handful of other fellows looking to help out the poor guy in his time of need. I inked Mark's pristine pencils just as I was doing over on the *Mighty Man* backup story in *Savage Dragon*. Cory Walker concluded his run and managed to outshine us all on his way out the door. Knowing he could no longer keep up, Cory graciously stepped aside, for the good of the book.

So, what was Robert to do now—with his partner in crime and *Invincible*'s co-creator, Cory Walker, no longer in tow? If it were anybody else I'd suggest to him that he call it a day and fold up his tent. What chance would

A decorative border at the bottom of the page, identical to the one at the top, consisting of a dense pattern of red dots of varying sizes.

A decorative pattern of red dots of varying sizes, arranged in a grid-like fashion, covering the top portion of the page.

a series have with the odds stacked so seriously against it? Here was a book, the sole semi-success story in a superhero launch that failed to catch fire, which was slipping swiftly off schedule and had lost a good chunk of its drawing power with the sudden departure of a rising talent that gave it visual vitality! What chance would it have in this maddeningly competitive market?

A damned good chance as it turned out.

Raucous Robert Kirkman struck gold—again! He managed to dig up yet another hungry, talented, fresh-faced illustrator eager to take the comic book world by storm! Enter: Ryan Ottley! His first effort, reprinted here, was a worthy accomplishment from a capable newcomer but in a matter of a few issues, produced at an amazing pace, Ryan Ottley not only managed to get the book back on schedule but grew into a terrific artist in his own right in the process of doing it! It's safe to say that not only is the book back on track but that its future has never looked brighter!

So, how does Robert do this? Is he that talented? Well, sure, there is a good deal of that, no question. But it's more than that. This is a guy who's a fan. A fan of comics, a fan of superheroes, and he's got an inexhaustible enthusiasm and drive that is not only amazing to behold but infectious as all hell. This guy wants to produce comics. He wants to produce good comics—and he'll do anything in his power to accomplish that goal.

And if he can ingratiate himself to an alleged big shot like me to the extent that I'm willing to stay up well past my bedtime writing a halfwit introduction to his second Invincible collection on a night when I desperately need some shuteye so that I can get those little nippers of mine off to school in the morning—all the better.

Robert Kirkman is a hell of a guy.

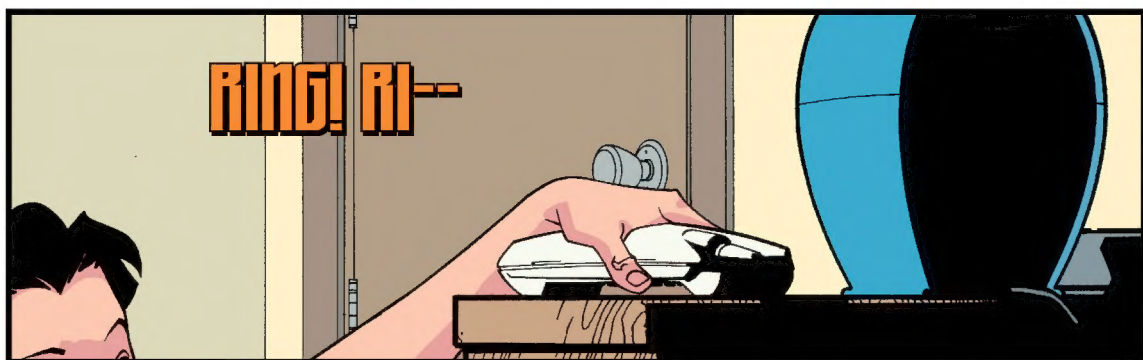
Invincible is one hell of a comic.

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CHAPTER ONE



OUCH.





DEBBIE, I NEED TO
SPEAK WITH MARK.
QUICK! OKAY, HON...
I'LL GO GET
HIM.

I GOT
IT, MOM.
YOU CAN
HANG
UP.



WHAT'S
GOING ON,
DAD?

PAY ATTENTION,
SON... I'M NOT
GOING TO HAVE
TIME TO REPEAT
ANY OF THIS.

I
NEED YOUR
HELP.



OKAY.

I'M ON
AN IMPORTANT
MISSION WITH THE
GUARDIANS OF THE
GLOBE THAT WELL...
YOU DON'T REALLY
WANT TO KNOW ANY
DETAILS ABOUT,
TRUST ME.



ANYWAY, I JUST GOT
ALERTED TO A MAJOR
BADDIE COMING INTO
OUR SOLAR SYSTEM,
HEADED STRAIGHT
FOR EARTH.

I'VE FOUGHT THIS GUY
BEFORE, HE'S NOT OUT
OF YOUR LEAGUE, BUT
HE'S GOING TO BE
THE TOUGHEST GUY
YOU'VE FACED
SO FAR.



I'M NOT WORRIED.
WHAT DO YOU WANT
ME TO DO?

JUST
BEAT THE
GUY UP, KEEP
HIM FROM
ENTERING EARTH'S
ATMOSPHERE AND
RUNNING AMOK.
IT'S NOT ROCKET
SCIENCE.

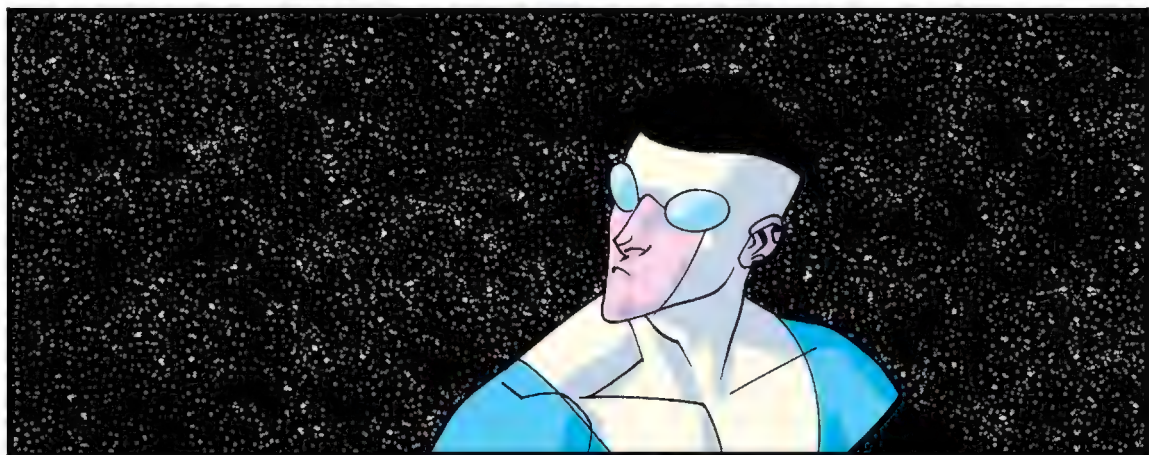
YOU'VE
GOT ABOUT
TWELVE
MINUTES TO
GET INTO
ORBIT.



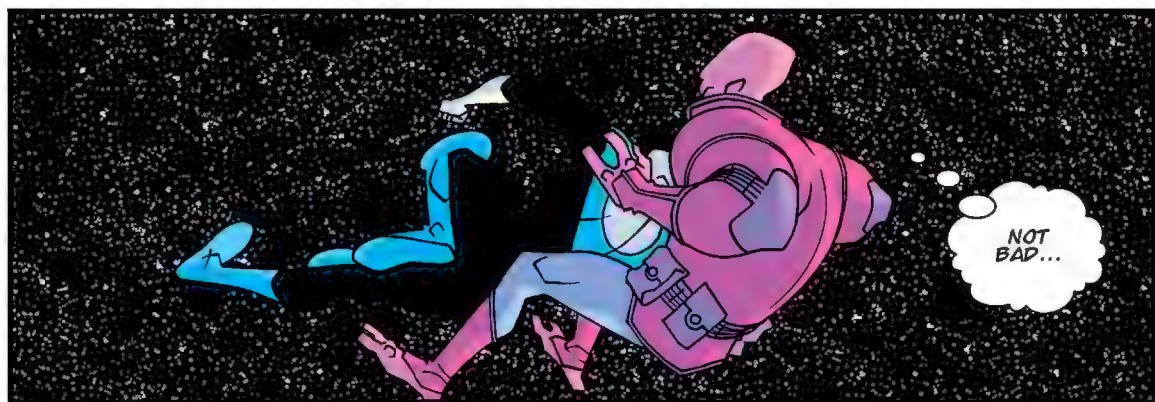
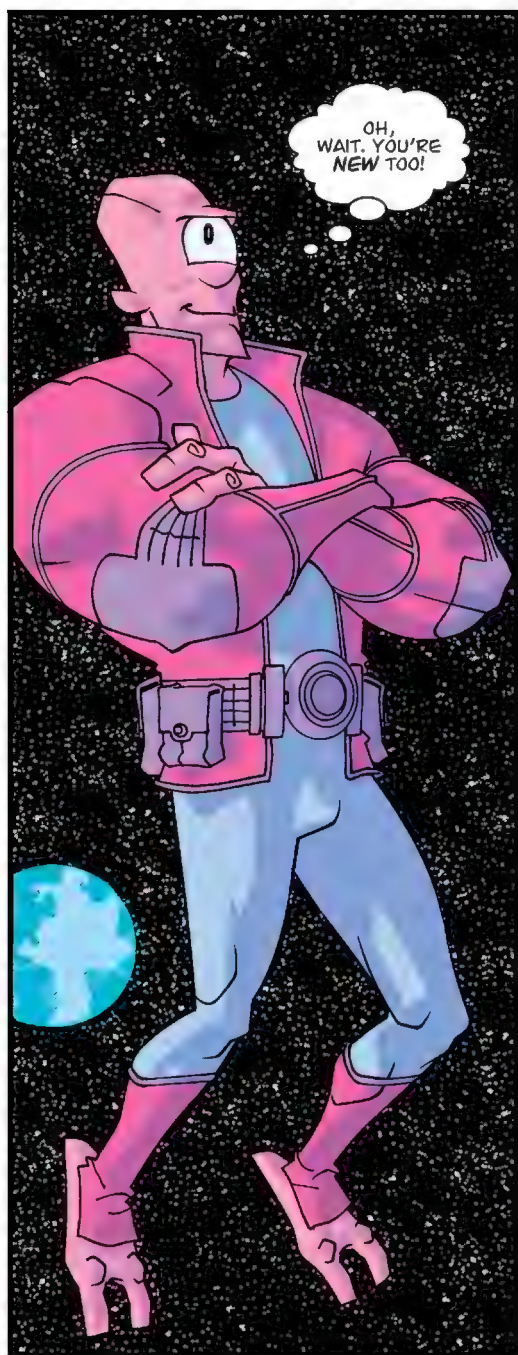
OKAY,
DAD. GOT
IT.

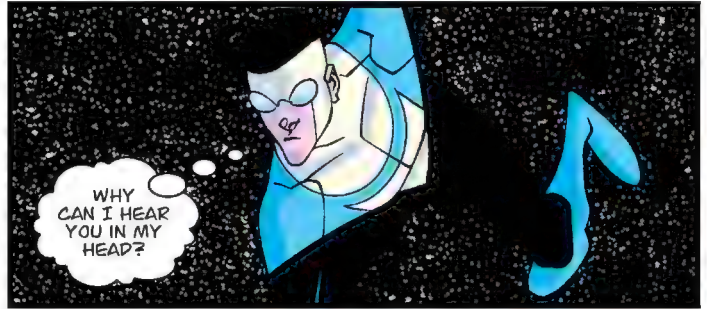


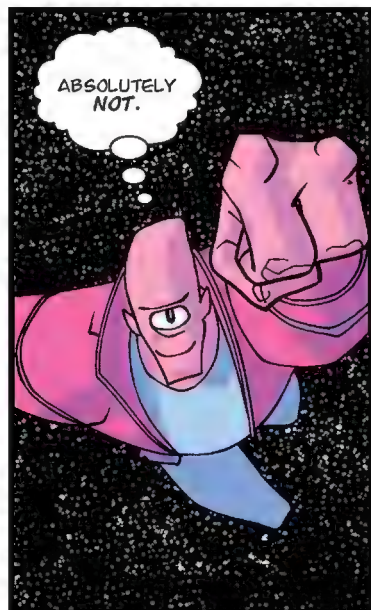
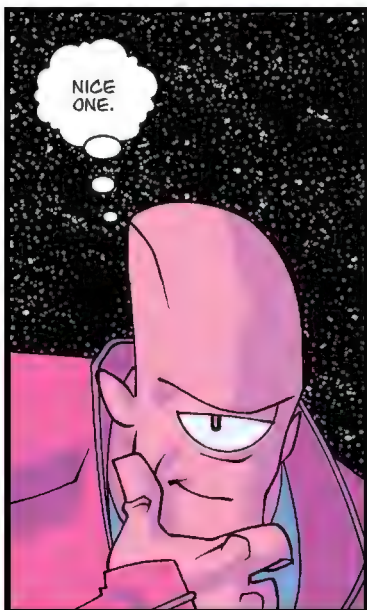




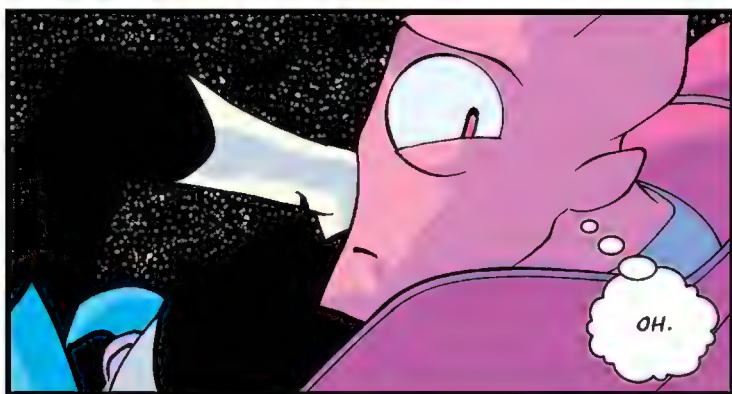
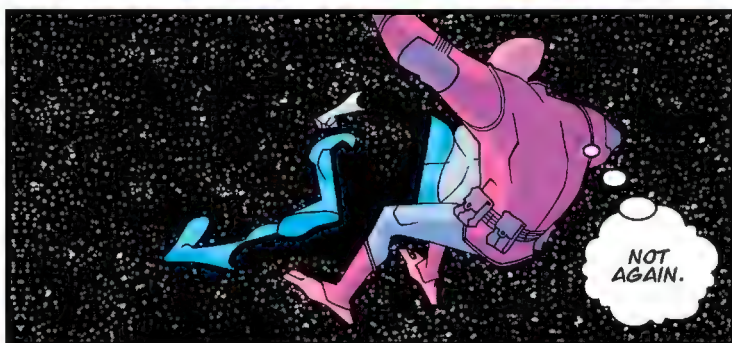
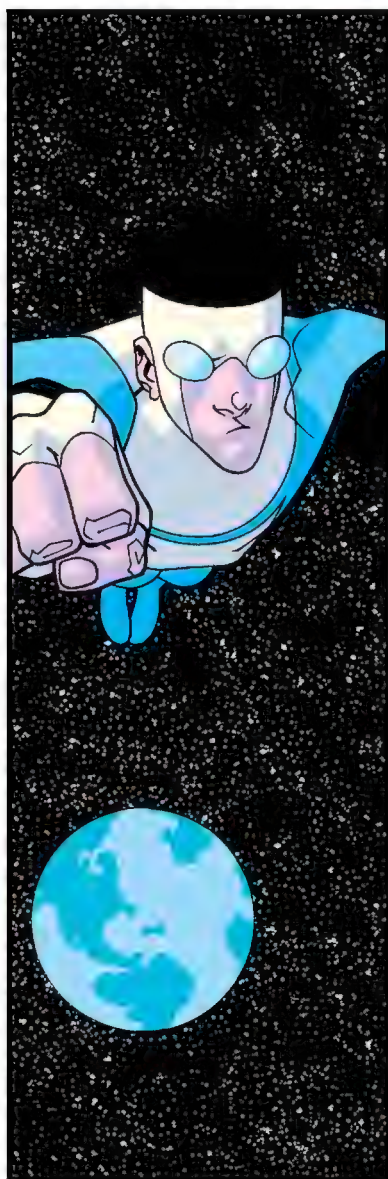




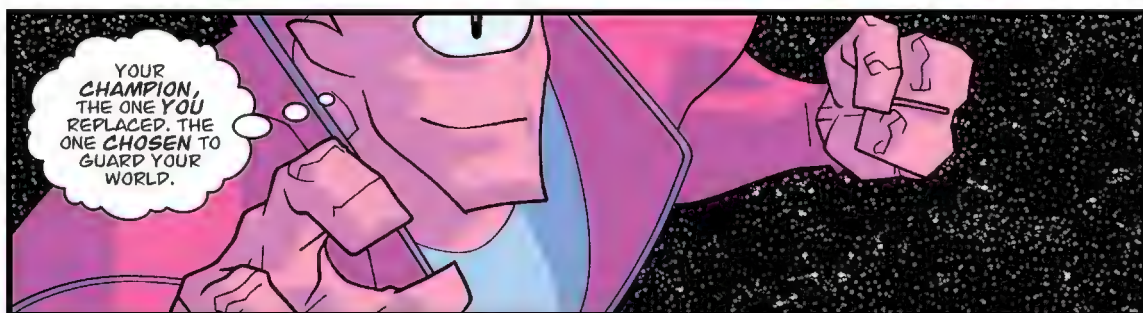


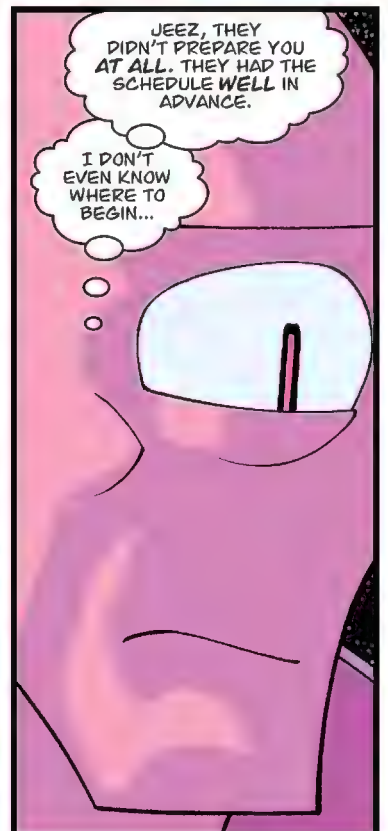




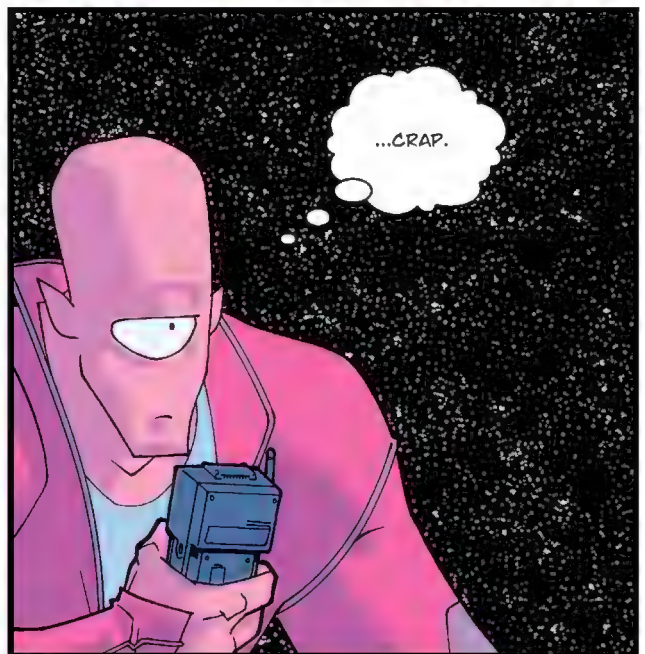


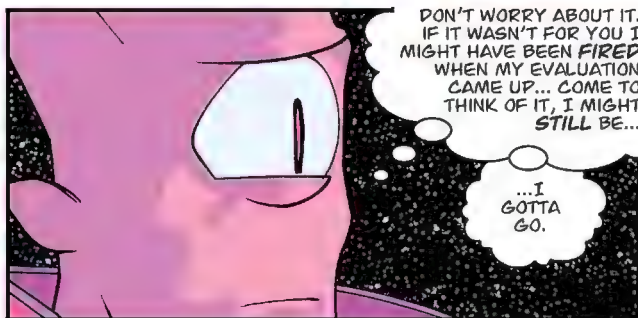






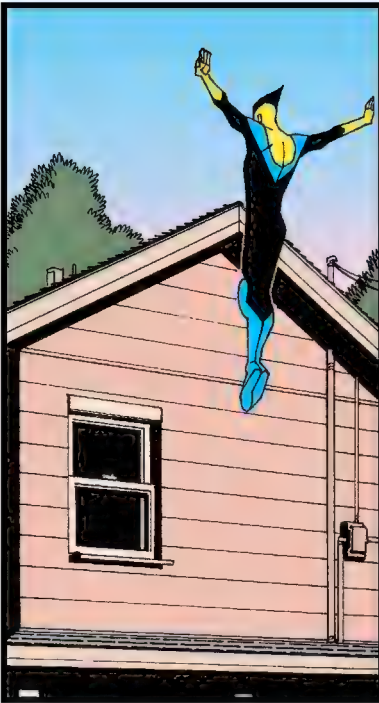








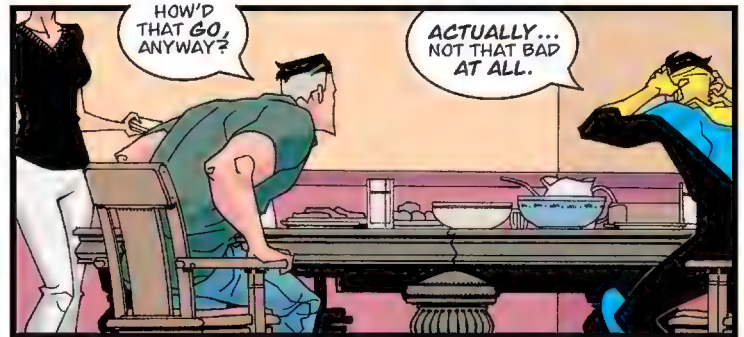
...COOL.



IT'S SO NICE
TO HAVE YOU
HOME THIS
EARLY.



I HAD A
LITTLE HELP
TODAY...



HOW'D
THAT GO,
ANYWAY?

ACTUALLY...
NOT THAT BAD
AT ALL.

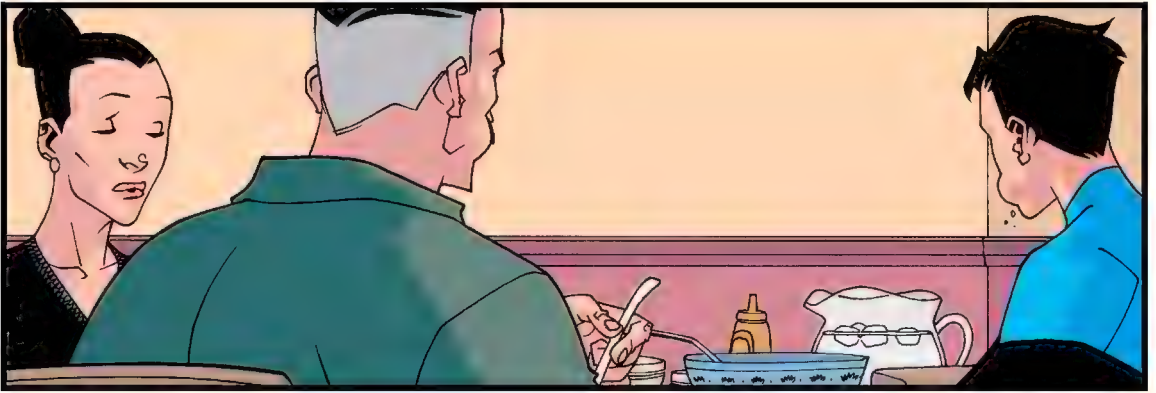


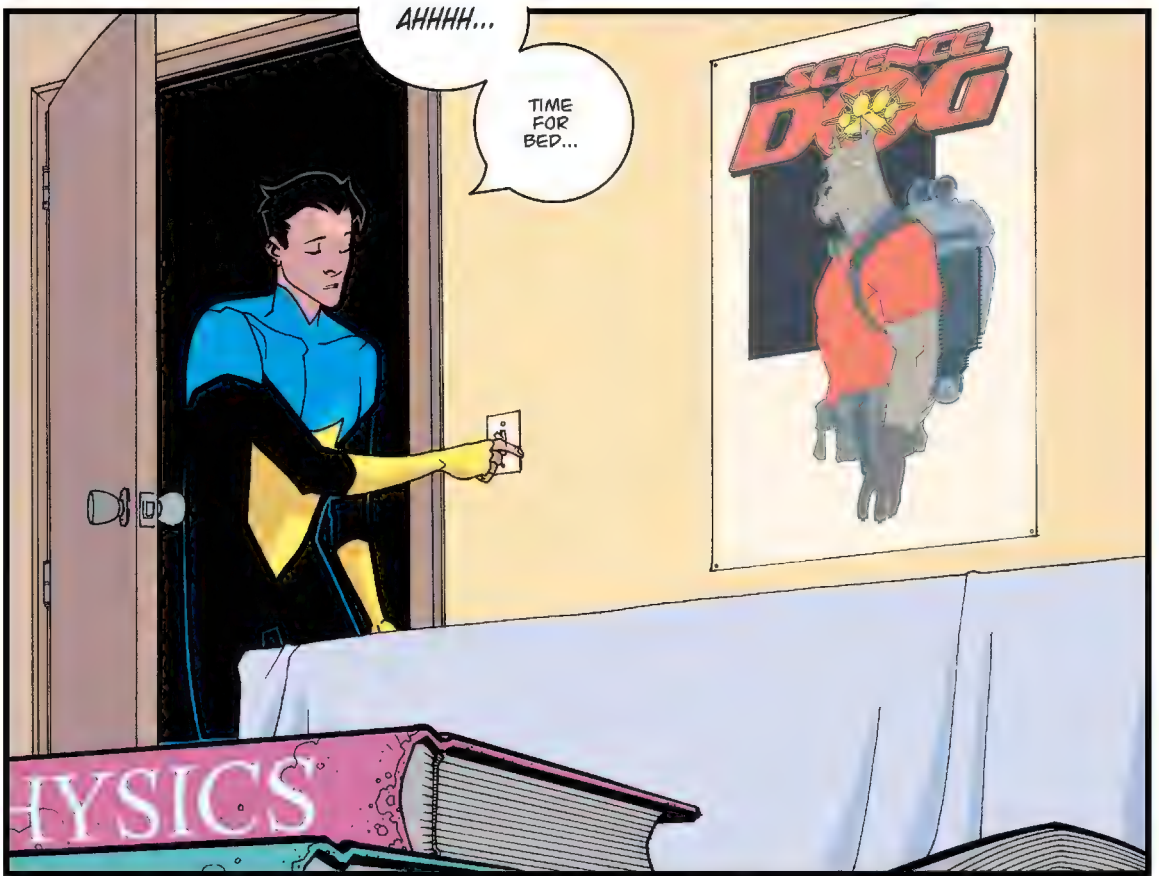
REALLY?

YEAH, HE
WON'T BE BACK.
TURNS OUT HE'S BEEN
COMING TO THE WRONG
PLANET THIS WHOLE TIME.
EVERY THREE YEARS FOR
NEARLY FIFTEEN YEARS...
I'M GLAD I TOOK THE
TIME TO TALK
TO HIM.



DAMN,
SON... I'M
IMPRESSED.
I WISH YOU HAD
BEEN AROUND
THE FIRST TIME
I FOUGHT
HIM.

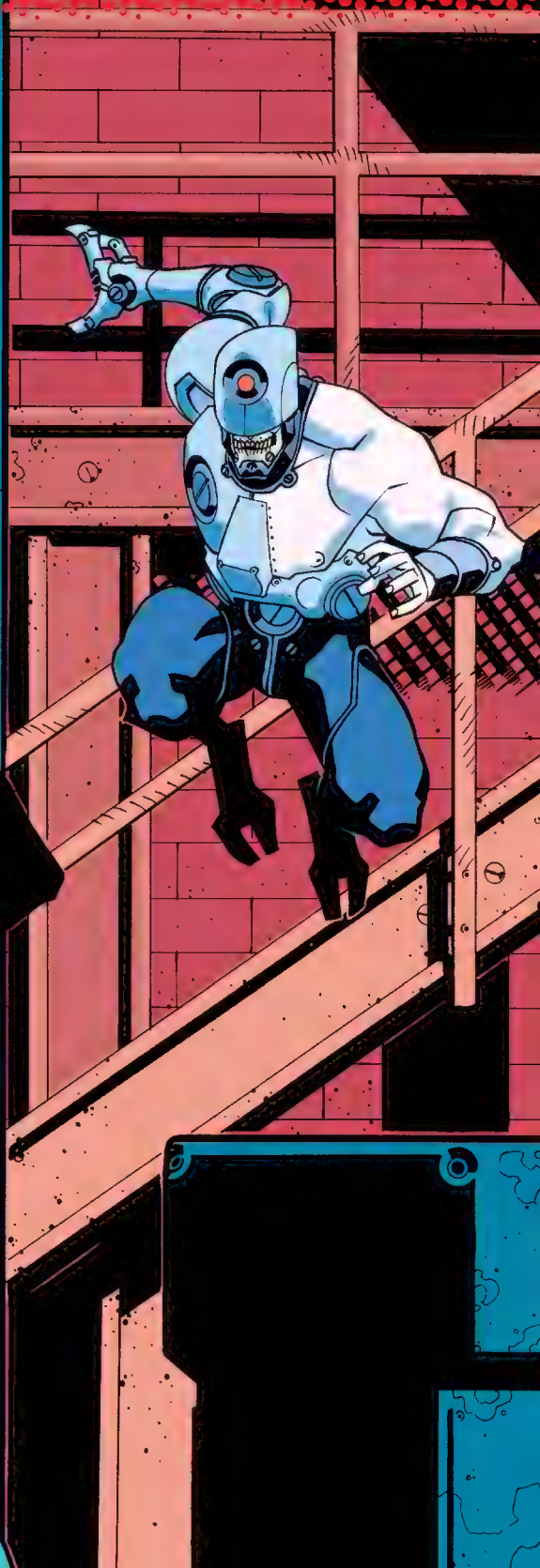






CHAPTER TWO

SIT TIGHT,
WILLIAM...
I THINK WE
LOST IT.



NO,
ACTUALLY IN
THE TIME IT TOOK
US TO LEAVE THE
BATTLE SITE IN SAUDI
ARABIA AND SAVE
THOSE PEOPLE AT THE
MALL THEY DEVISED
A WAY TO **TRACK** US,
AND BUILT A DEVICE
TO **DAMPEN** OUR
POWERS.

SO, AS
SOON AS THEY
PUT THAT **THING**
ON MY HEAD, I
WAS POWERLESS...
THAT'S HOW THEY
PULLED ME IN
THE PORTAL SO
EASILY.

I CAN'T
FIGURE OUT
HOW **TIME** WORKS
FOR THEM, FOR ALL I
KNOW THEY COULD BE
FROM A **NONLINEAR**
DIMENSION... I HAVE
NO CLUE HOW
LONG I WAS
THERE.

I
ALWAYS
ROUND **DOWN**...
I THINK IT
MAKES YOUR
MOTHER **FEEL**
BETTER.

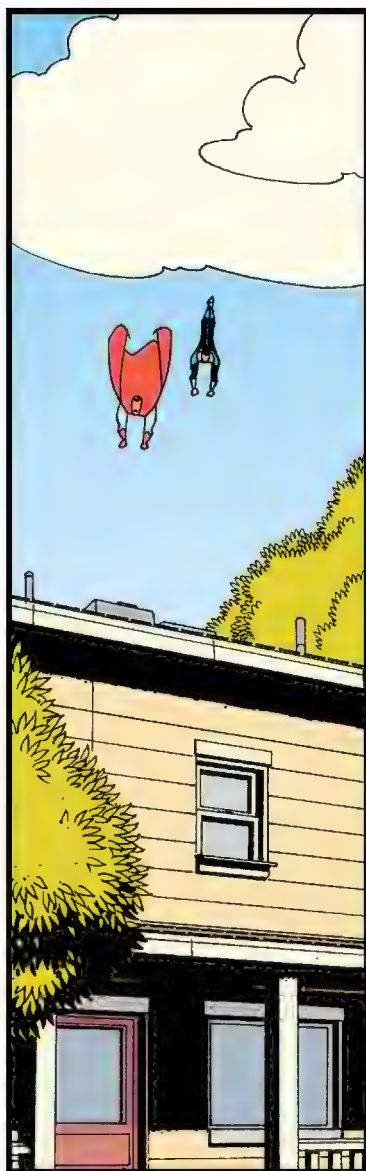


BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

I HEAR THAT RIGHT AFTER THEY PULLED ME INTO THE PORTAL YOU CALLED OUT FOR ME...

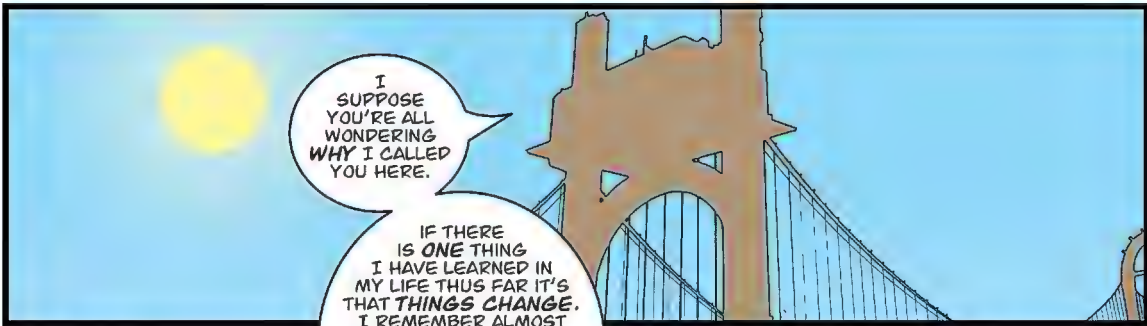
YEAH, SO...?





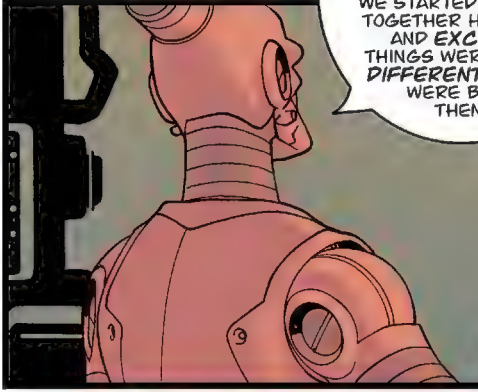






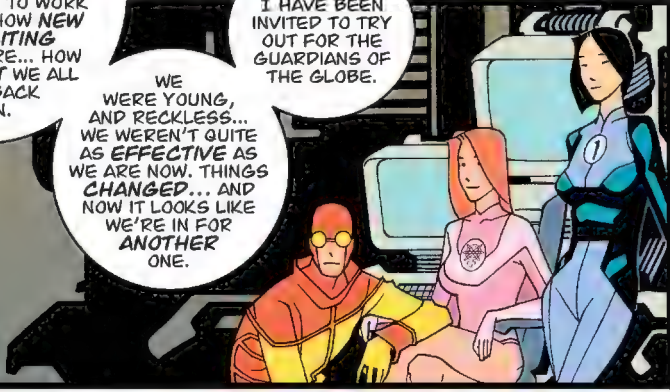
I
SUPPOSE
YOU'RE ALL
WONDERING
WHY I CALLED
YOU HERE.

IF THERE
IS **ONE** THING
I HAVE LEARNED IN
MY LIFE THUS FAR IT'S
THAT **THINGS CHANGE**.
I REMEMBER ALMOST
FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN
WE STARTED TO WORK
TOGETHER HOW **NEW**
AND **EXCITING**
THINGS WERE... HOW
DIFFERENT WE ALL
WERE BACK
THEN.



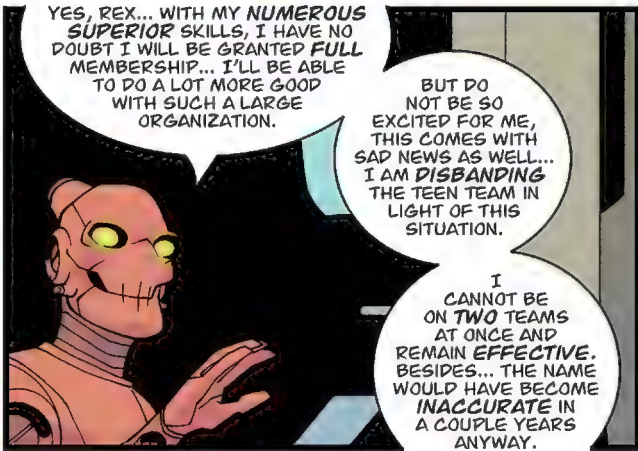
WE
WERE YOUNG,
AND RECKLESS...
WE WEREN'T QUITE
AS **EFFECTIVE** AS
WE ARE NOW. THINGS
CHANGED... AND
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE IN FOR
ANOTHER
ONE.

I HAVE BEEN
INVITED TO TRY
OUT FOR THE
GUARDIANS OF
THE GLOBE.



OH,
ROBOT--
THAT'S
GREAT!

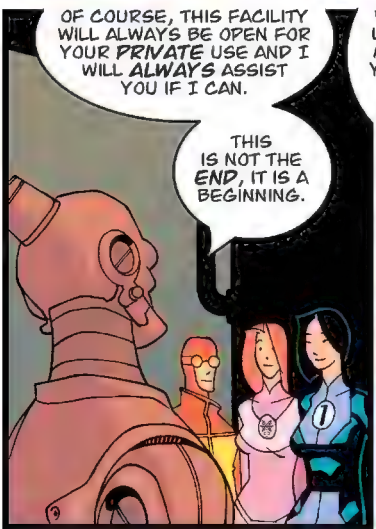
YEAH,
MAN... WELL
DONE! I'M SURE
YOU'LL **REALLY**
TURN SOME HEADS.



YES, REX... WITH MY **NUMEROUS**
SUPERIOR SKILLS, I HAVE NO
DOUBT I WILL BE GRANTED **FULL**
MEMBERSHIP... I'LL BE ABLE
TO DO A LOT MORE GOOD
WITH SUCH A LARGE
ORGANIZATION.

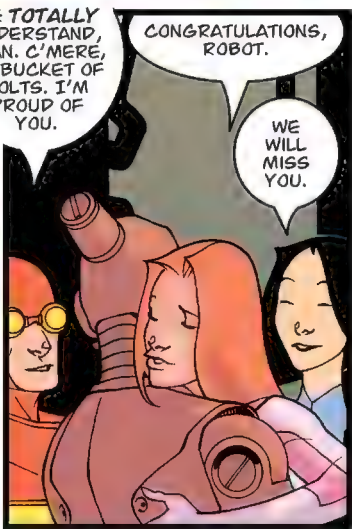
BUT DO
NOT BE SO
EXCITED FOR ME,
THIS COMES WITH
SAD NEWS AS WELL...
I AM **DISBANDING**
THE TEEN TEAM IN
LIGHT OF THIS
SITUATION.

I
CANNOT BE
ON **TWO** TEAMS
AT ONCE AND
REMAIN **EFFECTIVE**.
BESIDES... THE NAME
WOULD HAVE BECOME
INACCURATE IN
A COUPLE YEARS
ANYWAY.



OF COURSE, THIS FACILITY
WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN FOR
YOUR **PRIVATE** USE AND I
WILL **ALWAYS** ASSIST
YOU IF I CAN.

THIS
IS NOT THE
END, IT IS A
BEGINNING.



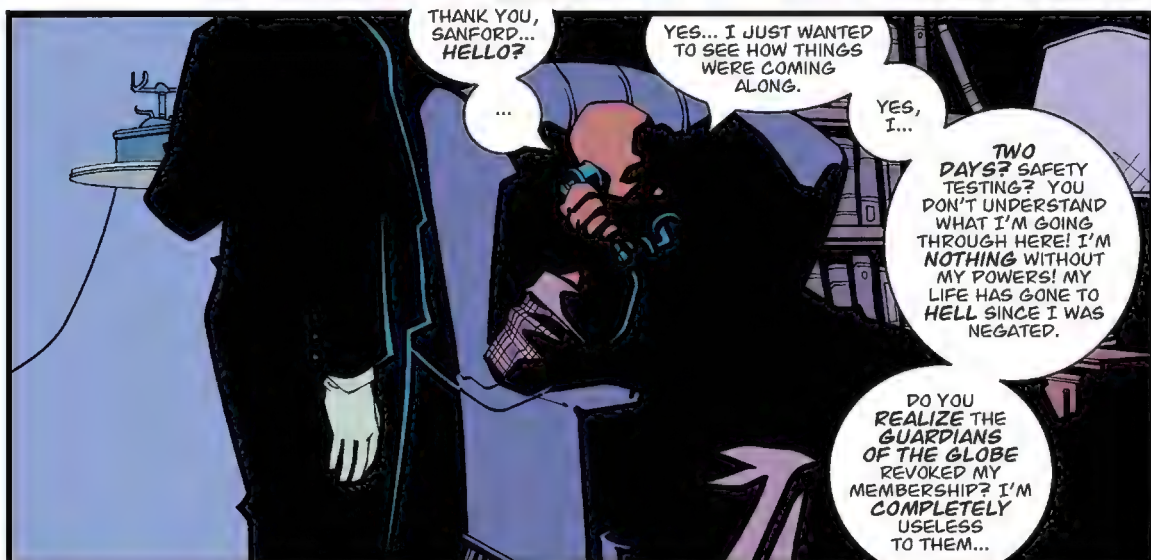
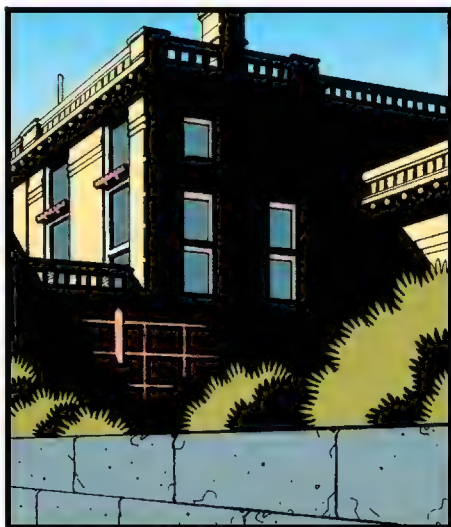
WE **TOTALLY**
UNDERSTAND,
MAN. C'MERE,
YA BUCKET OF
BOLTS. I'M
PROUD OF
YOU.

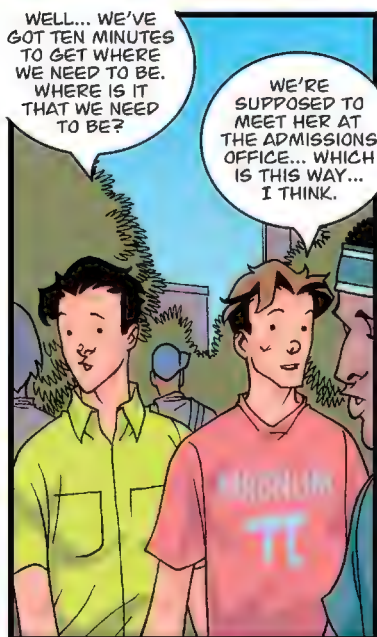
CONGRATULATIONS,
ROBOT.

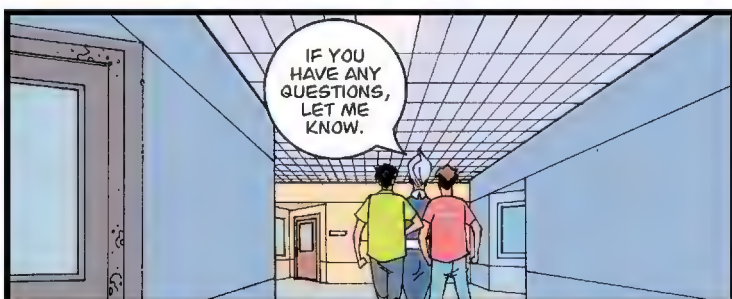
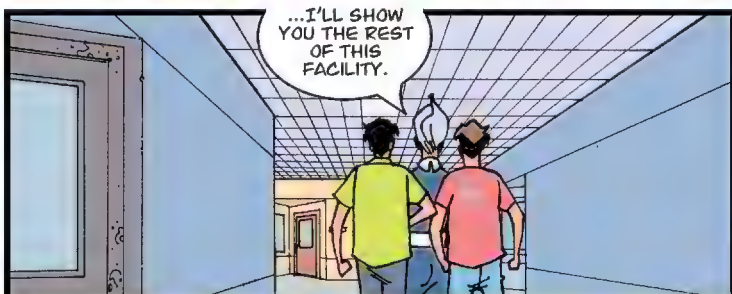
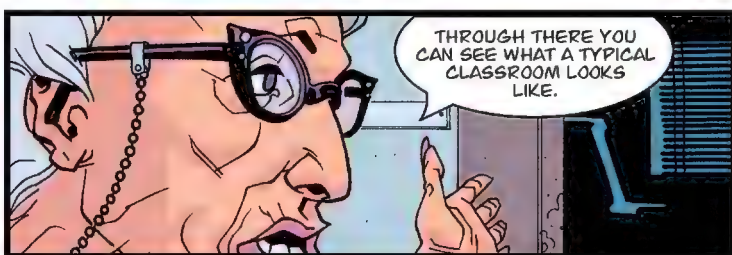
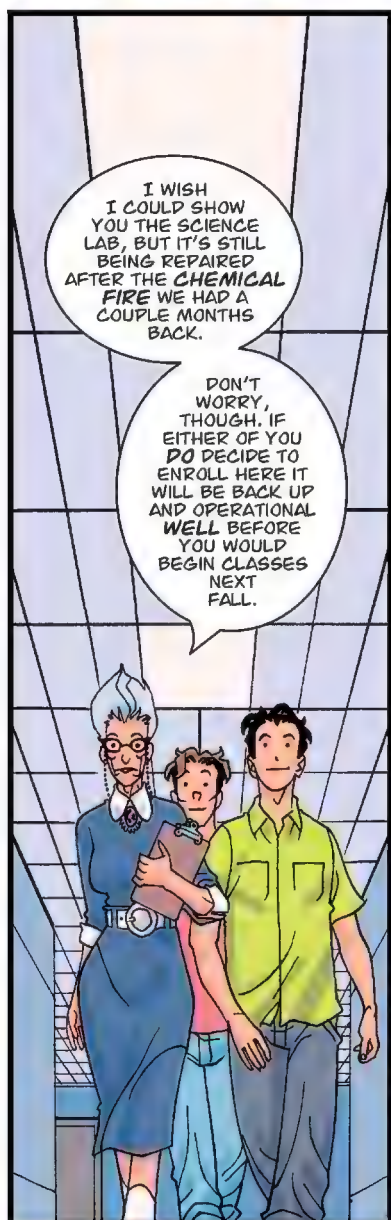
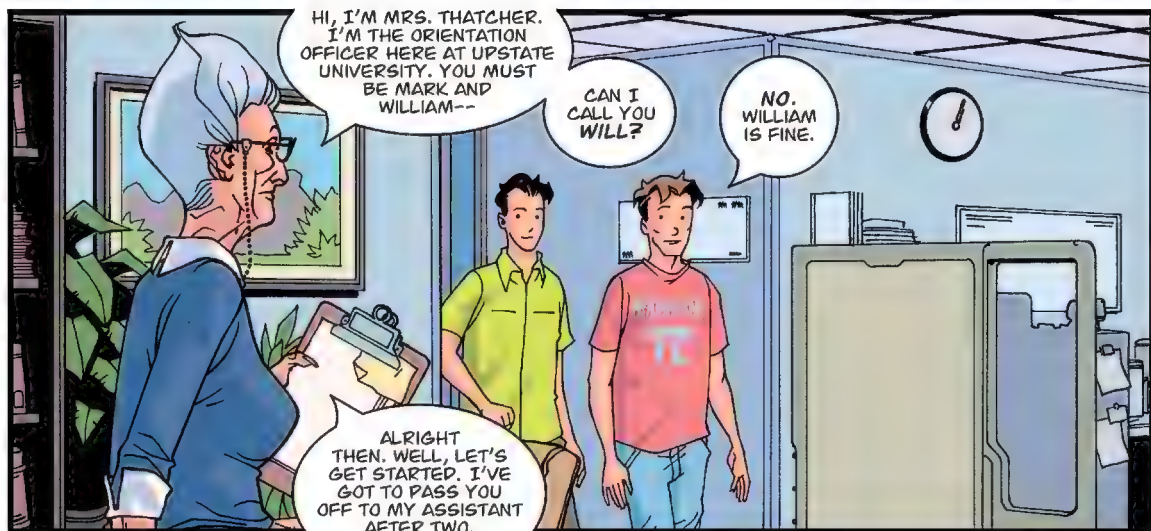
WE
WILL
MISS
YOU.



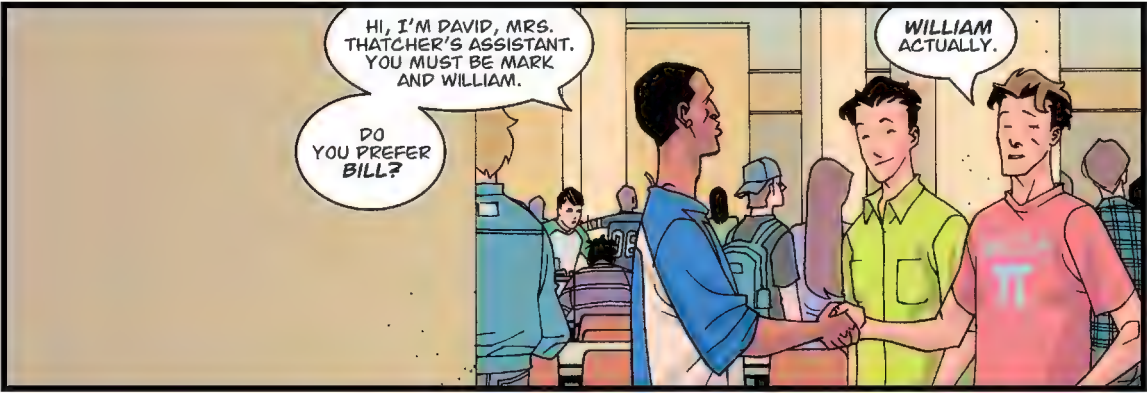
I
WILL MISS
YOU ALL, AS
WELL.



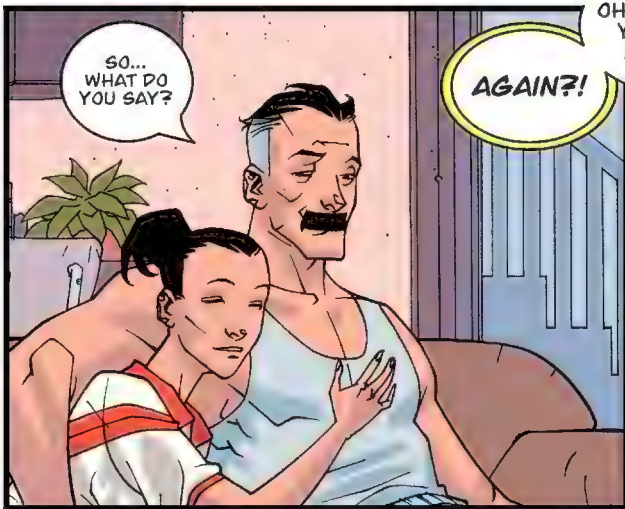






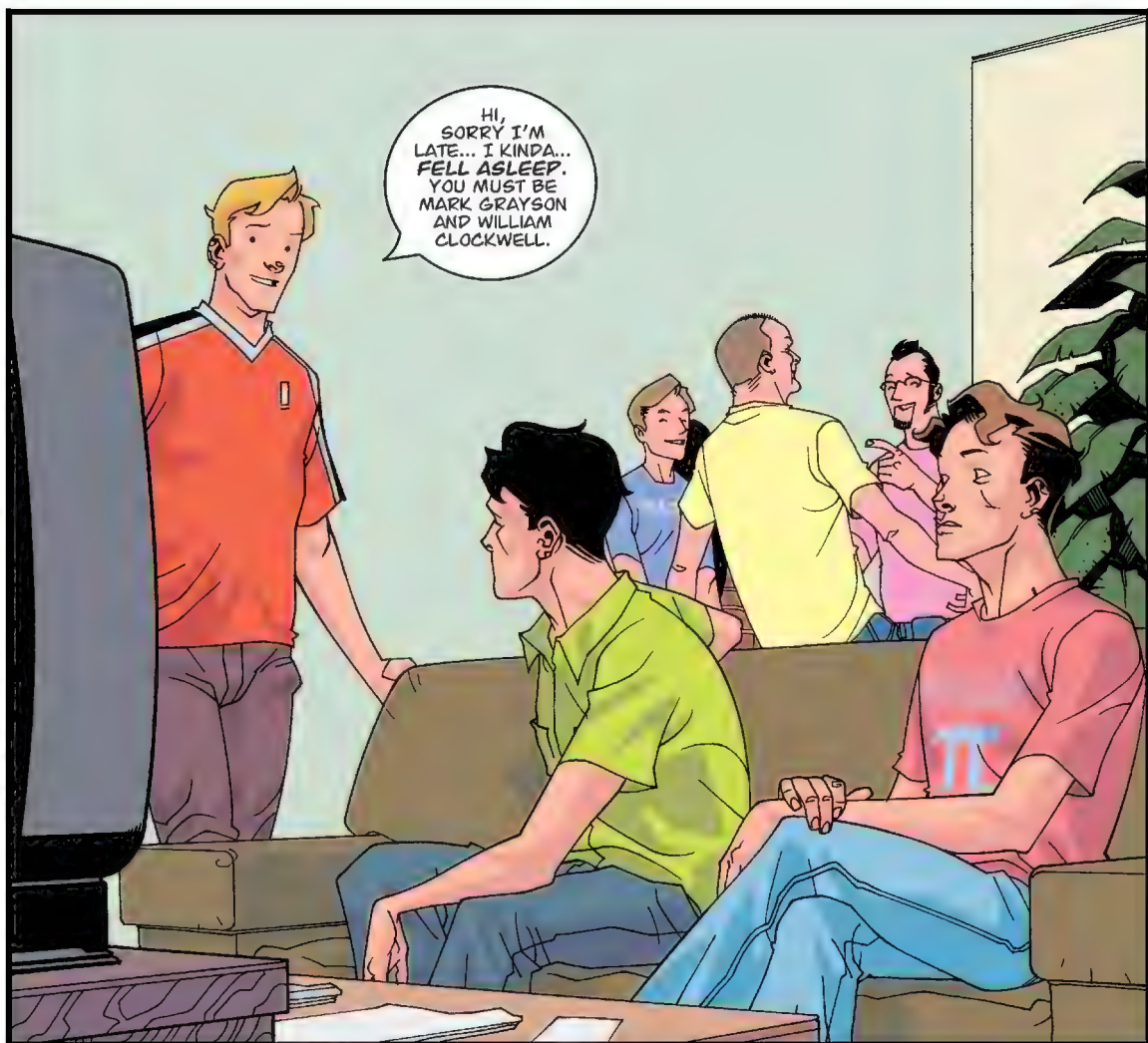






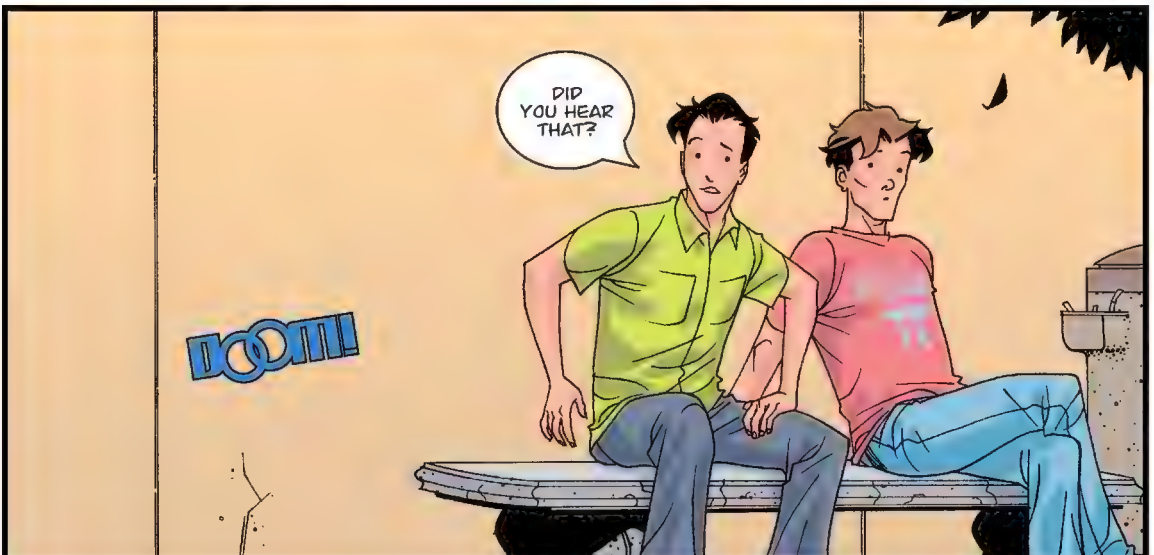
AGAIN?!

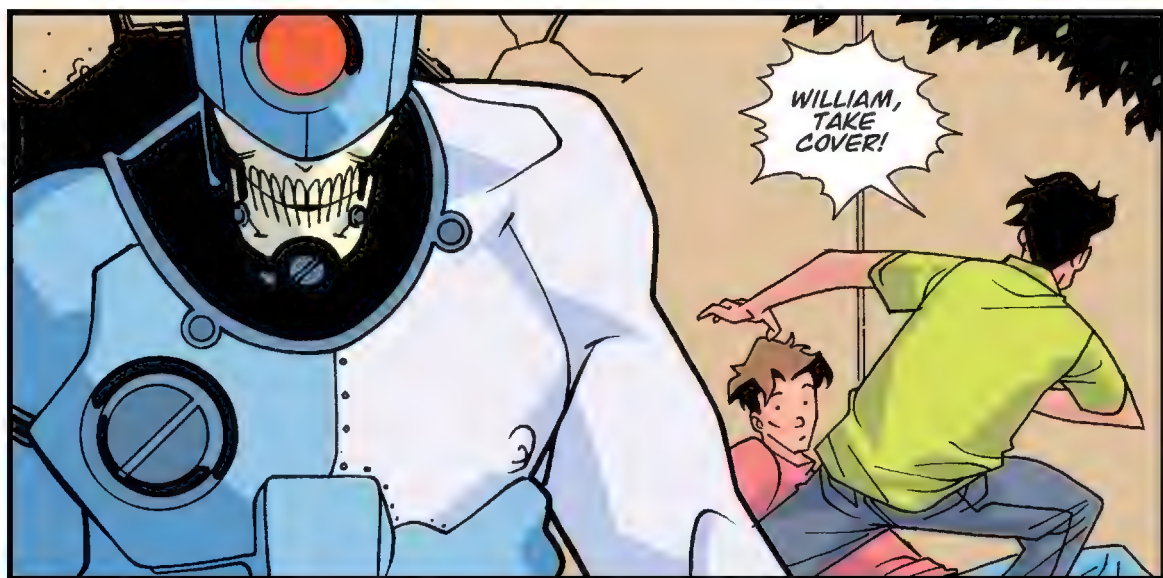
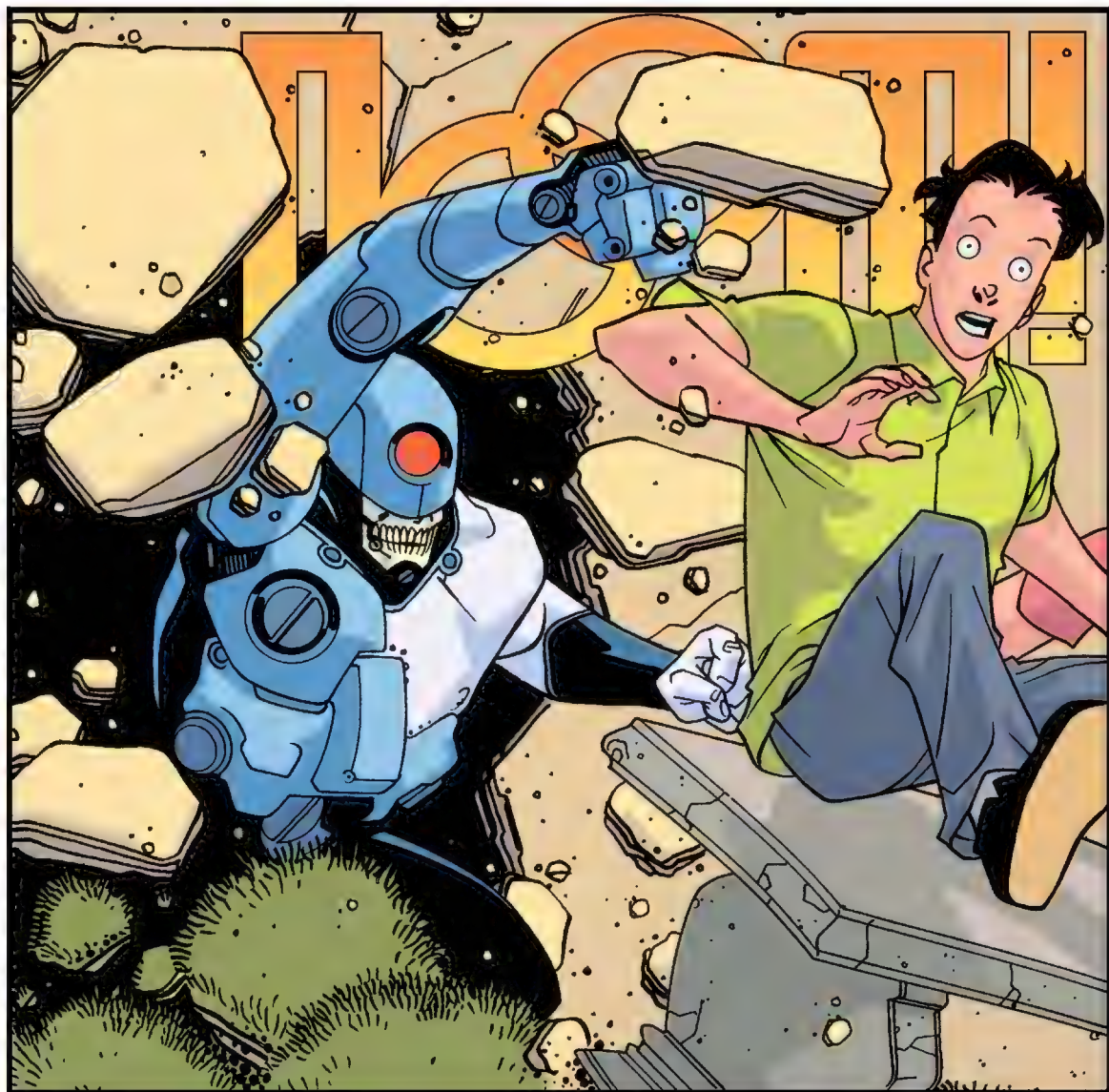


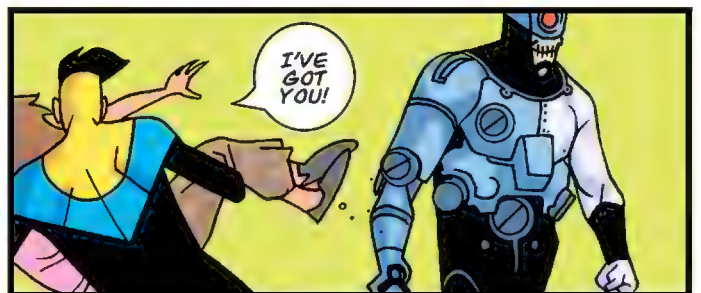
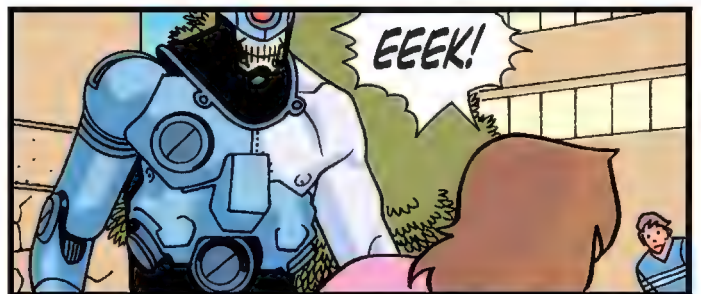
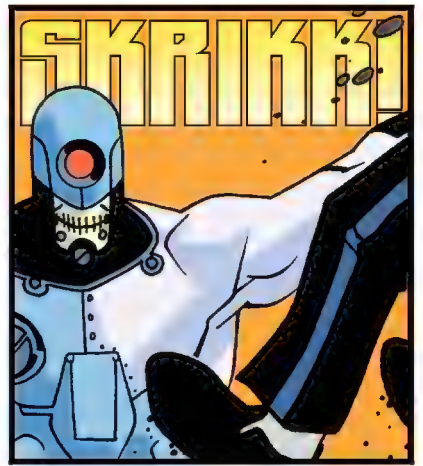


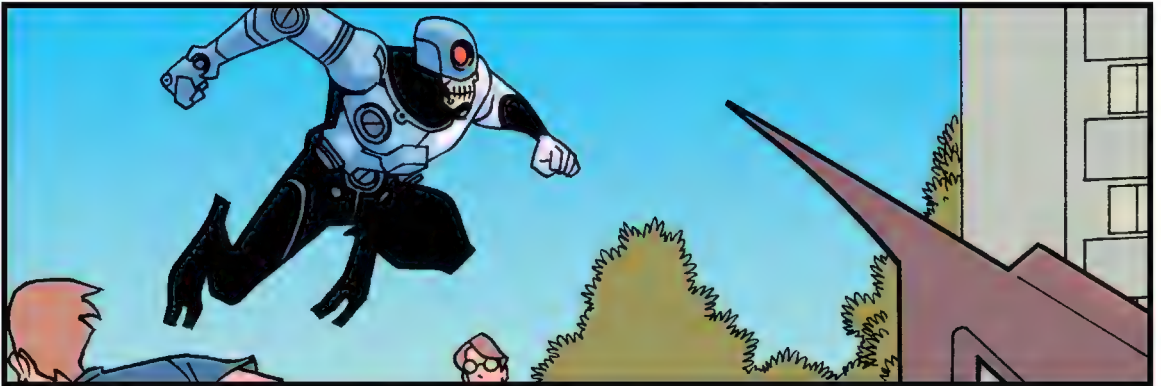
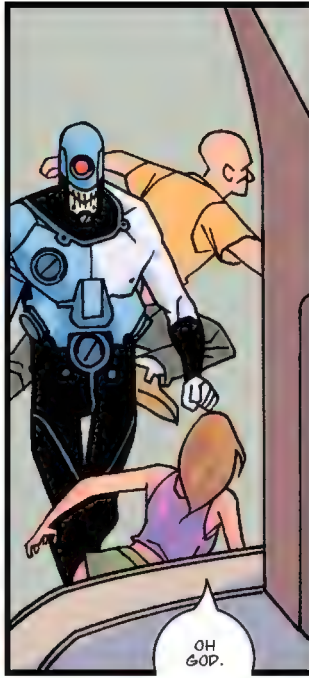
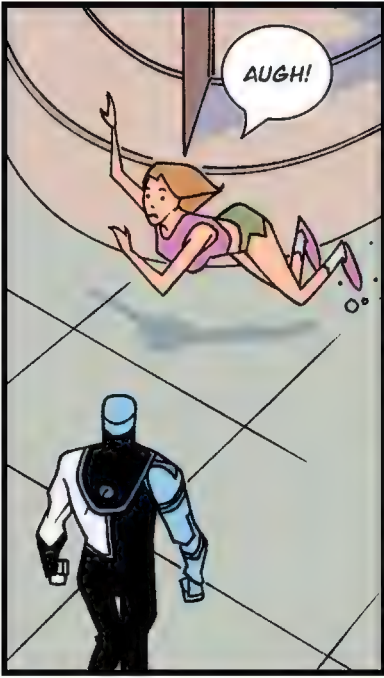


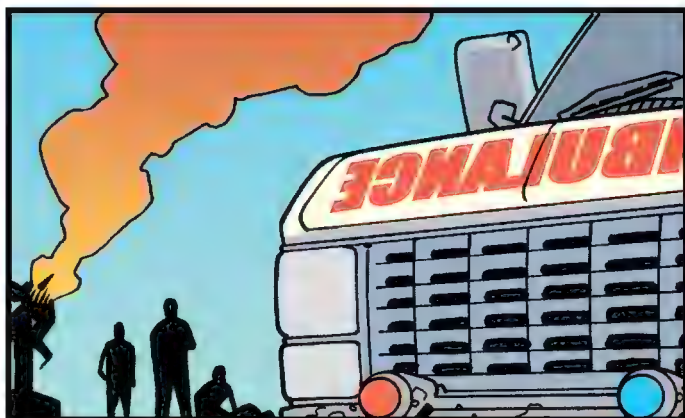
OH, I WAS PRETTY MUCH DECIDED BEFORE WE EVEN CAME HERE. IT'S GOT EVERYTHING I'M GOING TO NEED, AND IT'S NOT TOO EXPENSIVE... SO MY PARENTS CAN EASILY AFFORD IT, AND WITH MY S.A.T. SCORES IT'LL BE A BREEZE TO GET ACCEPTED.

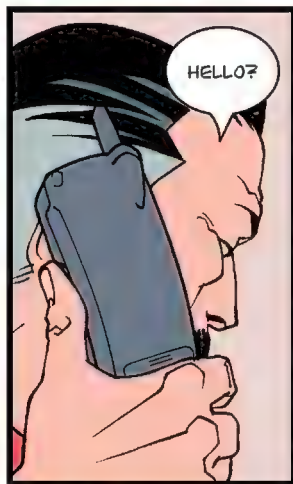
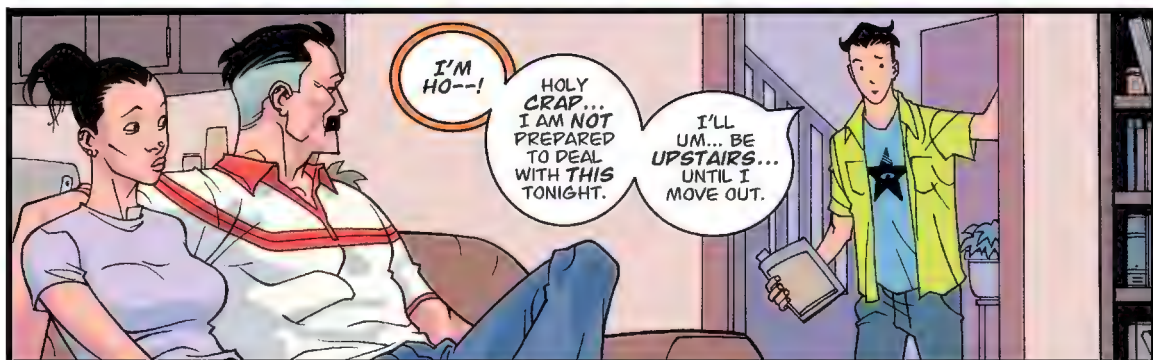








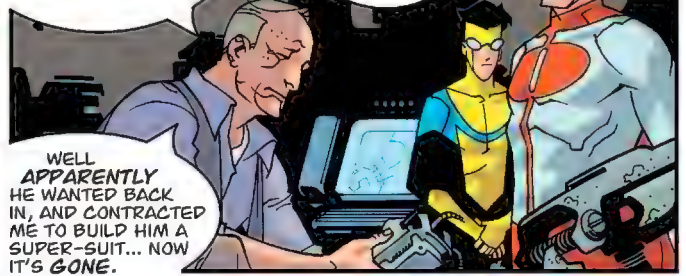






I... I WAS DEVELOPING A SUIT THAT WOULD RESTORE BLACK SAMSON'S POWERS: YOU KNEW ABOUT HIS INCIDENT, RIGHT?

YEAH, THE GUARDIANS TOLD ME THEY HAD TO LET HIM GO.



WELL APPARENTLY HE WANTED BACK IN, AND CONTRACTED ME TO BUILD HIM A SUPER-SUIT... NOW IT'S GONE.

I DIDN'T SEE WHO IT WAS... THEY KNOCKED ME OUT BEFORE I EVEN KNEW THEY HAD BROKEN IN.



BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I DEAL WITH SUPER VILLAINS, AND THIS PLACE ISN'T EXACTLY COMMON KNOWLEDGE... AND HIS SUIT WAS THE ONLY THING STOLEN...

YOU'RE NOT SAYING...

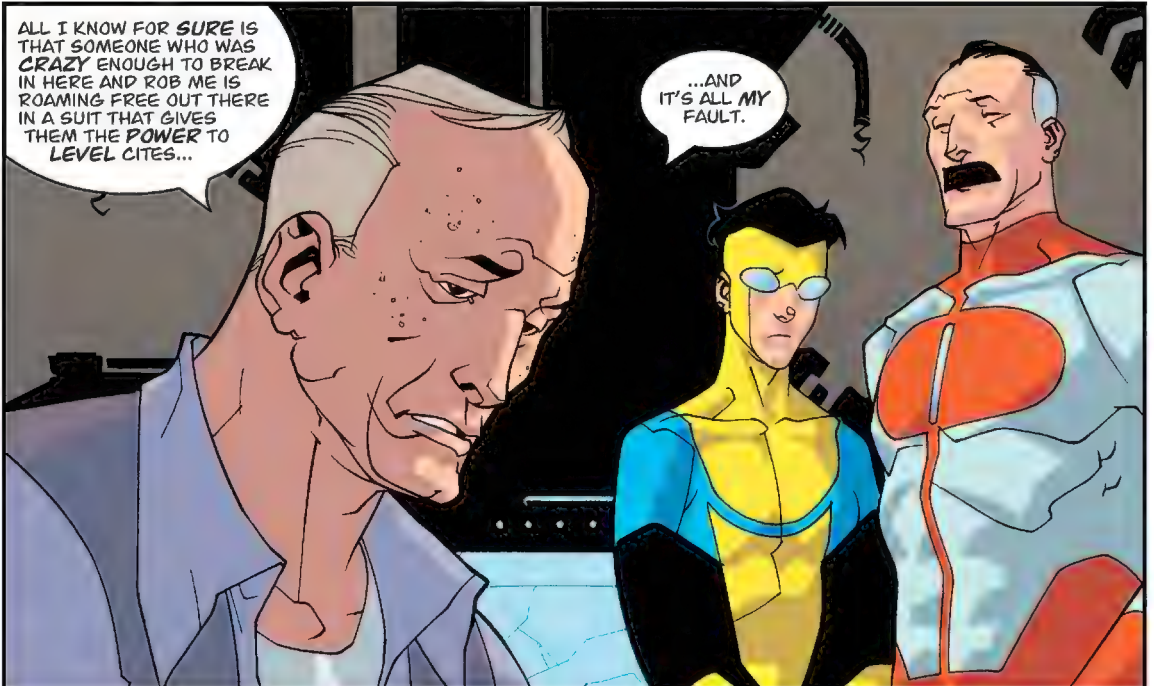


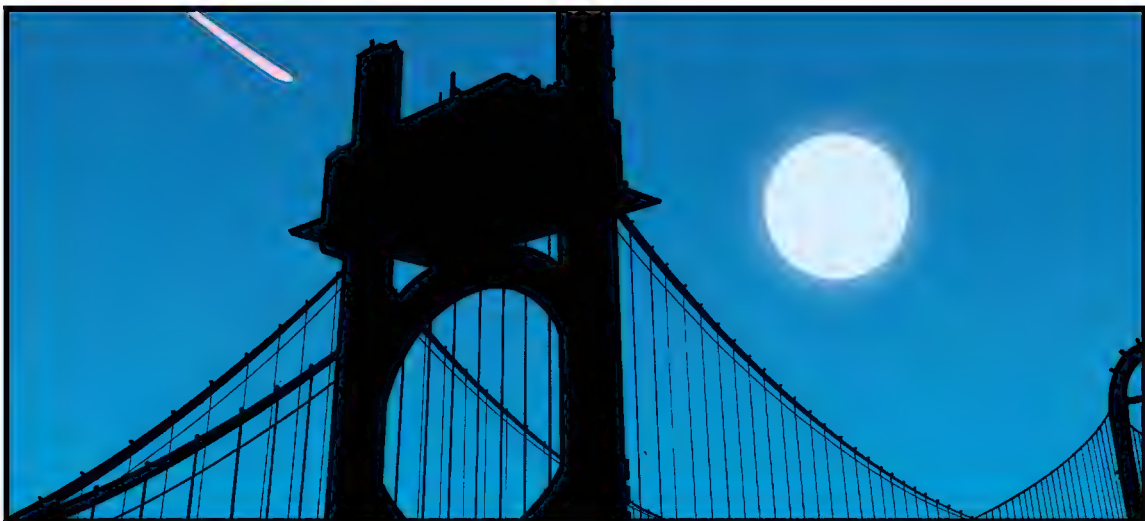
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING... I MEAN... I KNEW HE WAS UNSTABLE BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST THE STRESS OF LOSING HIS POWERS... HE MAY VERY WELL HAVE GONE INSANE...



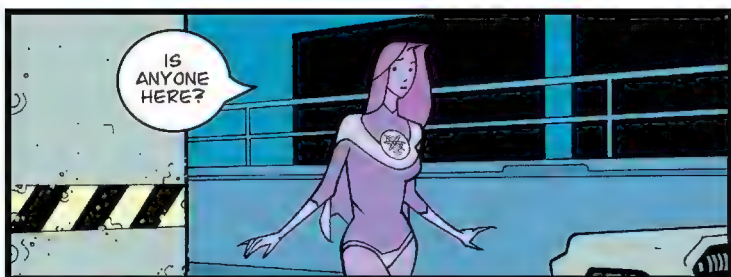
ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT SOMEONE WHO WAS CRAZY ENOUGH TO BREAK IN HERE AND ROB ME IS ROAMING FREE OUT THERE IN A SUIT THAT GIVES THEM THE POWER TO LEVEL CITIES...

...AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.





HELLO?



IS
ANYONE
HERE?



NO.



NO.

NO.

NO.

NO.

NO.



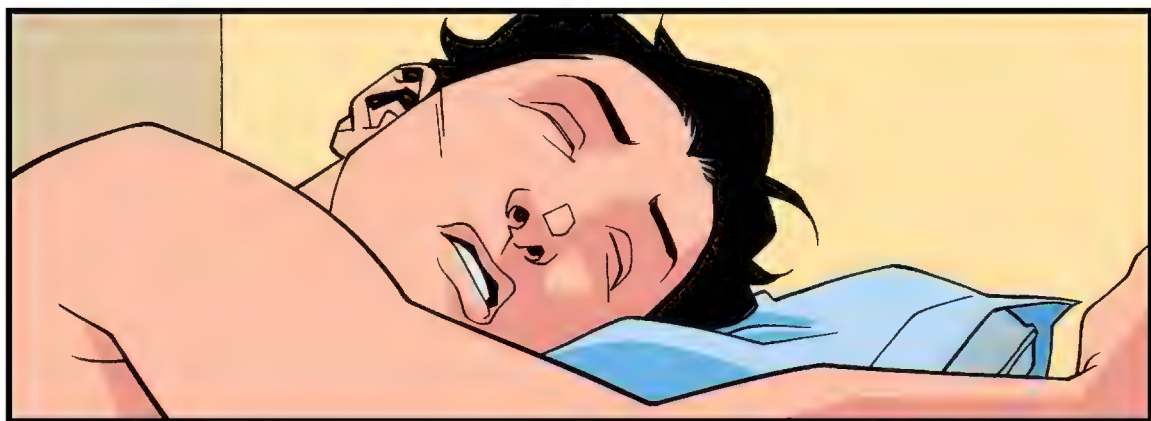
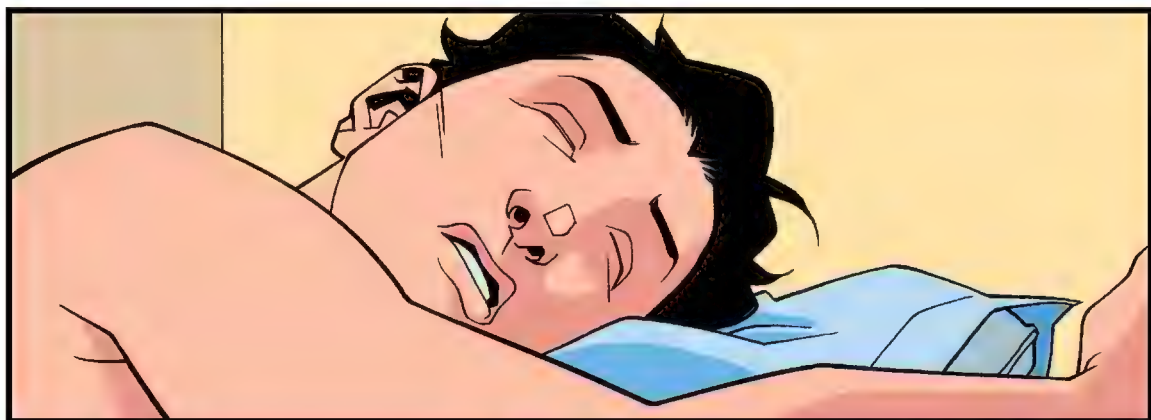
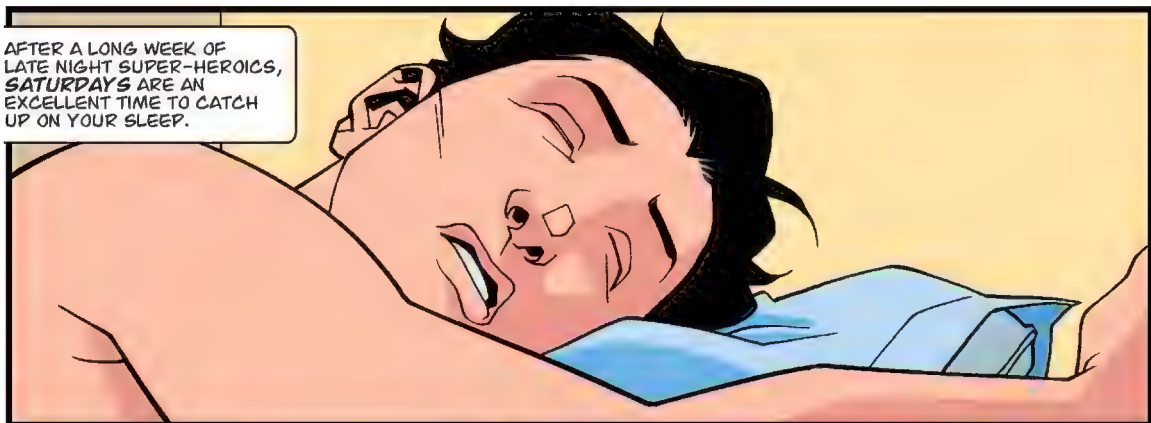
CHAPTER THREE

ONE SIDE,
KIDDO! THIS
LOOKS LIKE A
JOB FOR--

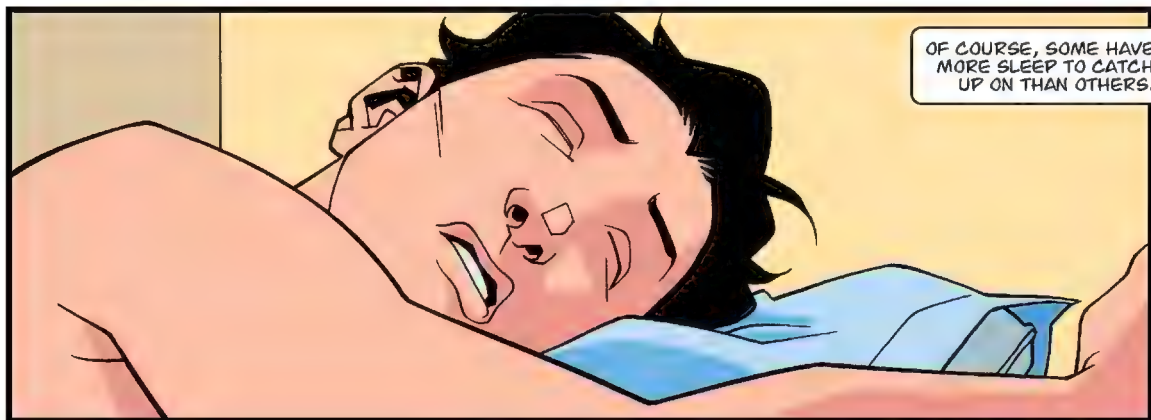
THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE!

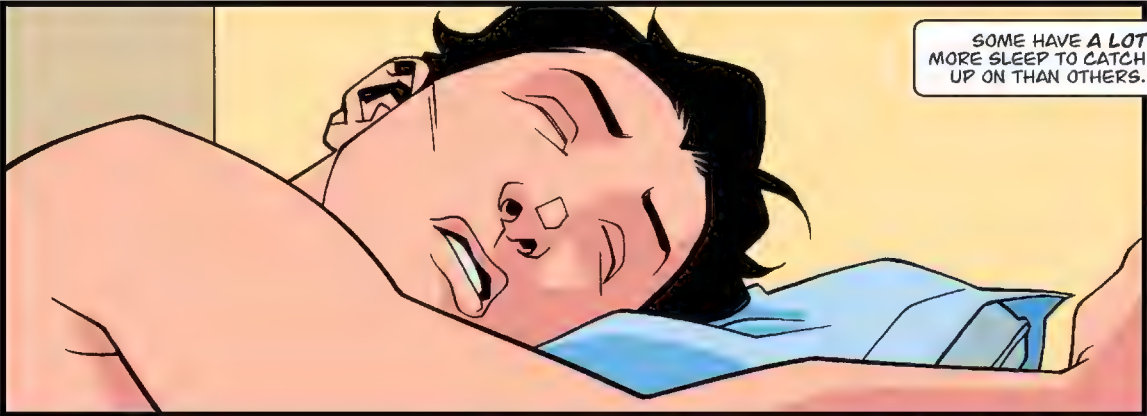
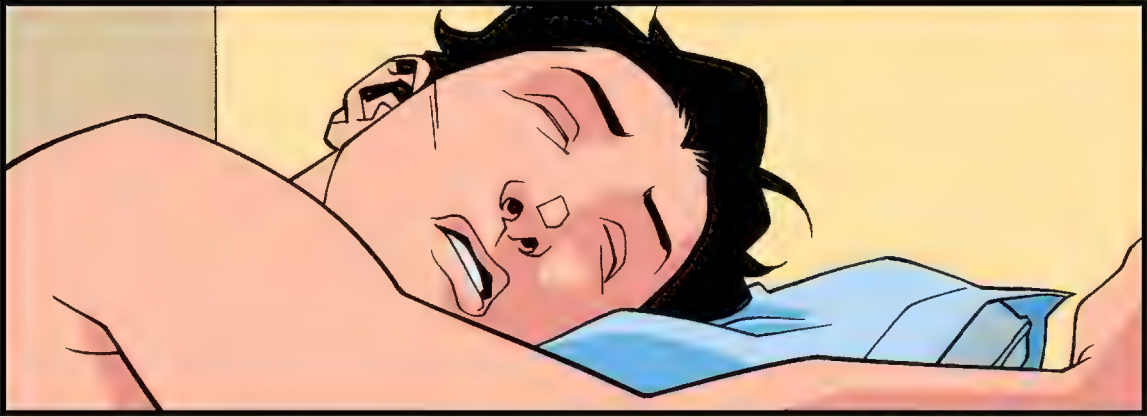
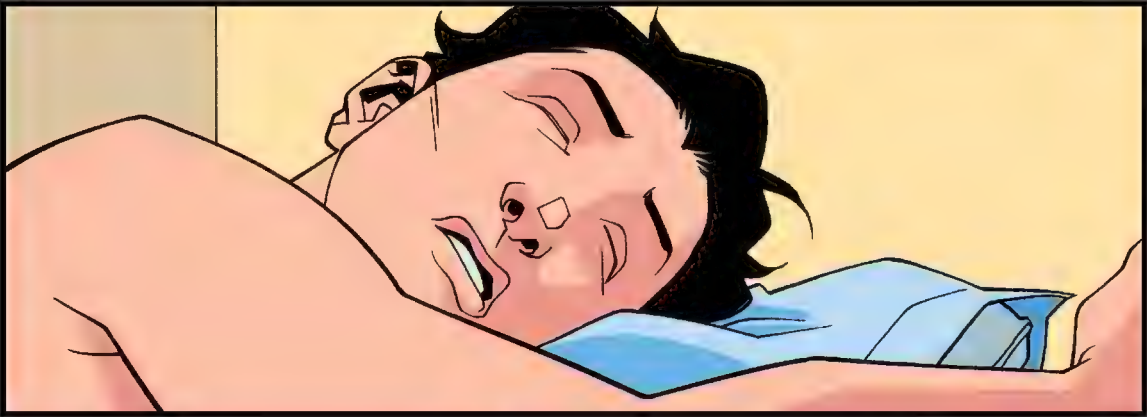
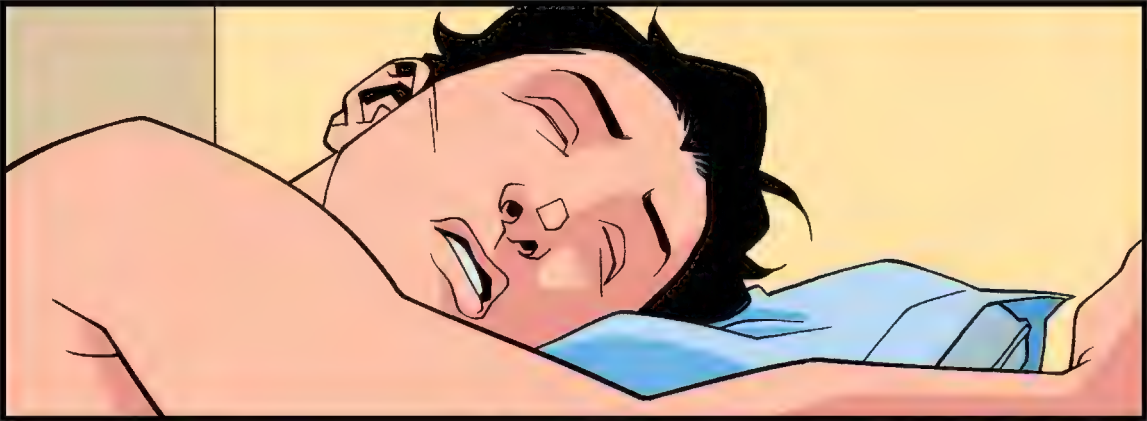


AFTER A LONG WEEK OF
LATE NIGHT SUPER-HEROICS,
SATURDAYS ARE AN
EXCELLENT TIME TO CATCH
UP ON YOUR SLEEP.



OF COURSE, SOME HAVE
MORE SLEEP TO CATCH
UP ON THAN OTHERS.





SOME HAVE A LOT
MORE SLEEP TO CATCH
UP ON THAN OTHERS.

MIDNIGHT CITY.

NINE O'CLOCK... A.M.

I HAVEN'T BEEN UP
THIS EARLY IN YEARS...

OH, QUIT YOUR BELLY-
ACHING... WE'RE MAKING
GOOD TIME HERE.

AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF
GETTING CAUGHT?
ESPECIALLY THIS EARLY
IN THE DAY...

YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN
ABOUT MIDNIGHT CITY,
LITTLE BROTHER.

THERE IS NO DAY AND NIGHT...
NOT SINCE THE MIDNIGHT
MAGICIAN SUCCEEDED IN
HIS SUICIDE MISSION
THREE YEARS
AGO.

I
THOUGHT YOU
KNEW ABOUT
ALL THIS WHEN I
ASKED YOU TO
COME STAY
WITH ME!

I KNEW A LITTLE BIT
ABOUT IT... BUT NOT ALL
THE DETAILS. WHAT
ABOUT COPS... WHAT
IF WE TRIP AN
ALARM?

AFTER IT HAPPENED,
THE GOVERNMENT STARTED
PAYING PEOPLE TO LEAVE--
COVERING MOVING EXPENSES
AND WHATNOT. THERE AREN'T
MANY COPS LEFT EITHER.
ONLY PEOPLE HERE ARE THE
ONES THAT REFUSED TO
LEAVE AND PEOPLE LIKE
US WHO STAYED BEHIND
TO LOOT THE PLACE.
THERE'S ALMOST
NOBODY
LEFT...

ONLY
REAL THREAT
TO US IS DARKWING
AND HE CAN'T BE
EVERYWHERE.



I
WOULDN'T
BE SO
SURE...



OH MAN!

OH MAN!

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, BRO!



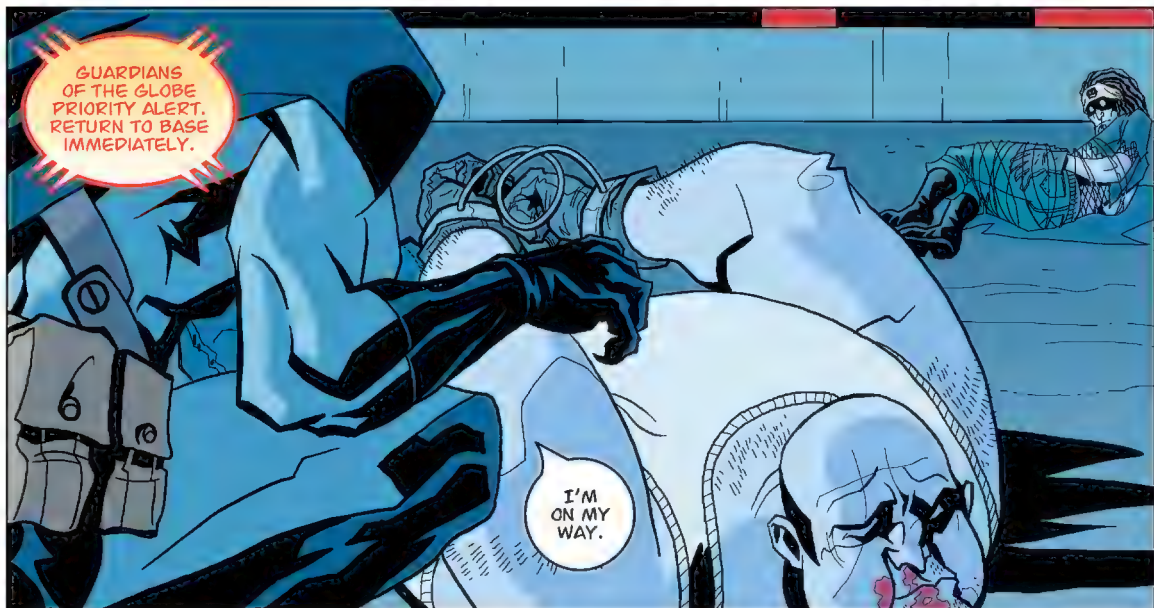
ULP!



OOH, WHO'S GOT THE UPPER HAND NOW, MISTER SUPER-HERO BIG SHOT? YOU FEEL THAT COLD HARD OBJECT PRESSED AGAINST YOUR TEMPLE? IF YOU'RE GUESSING THAT'S MY GUN THEN YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RI--

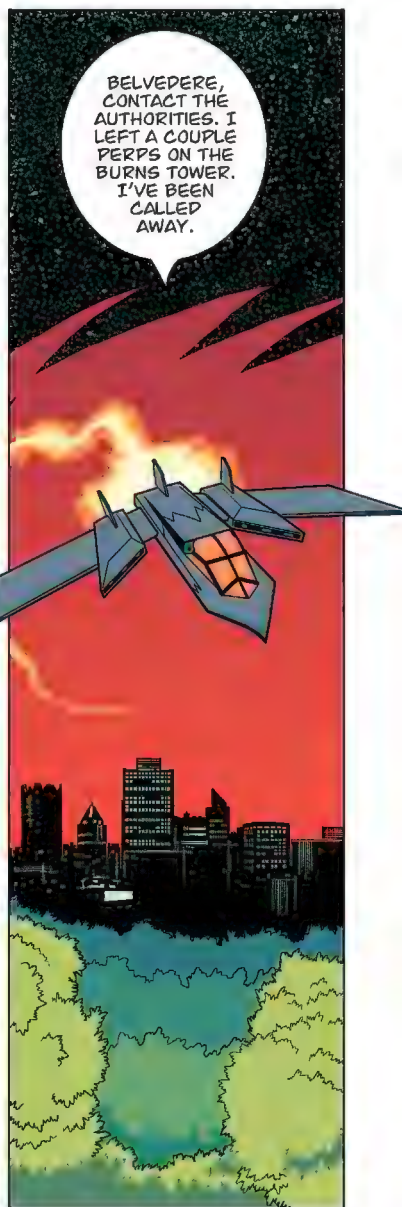
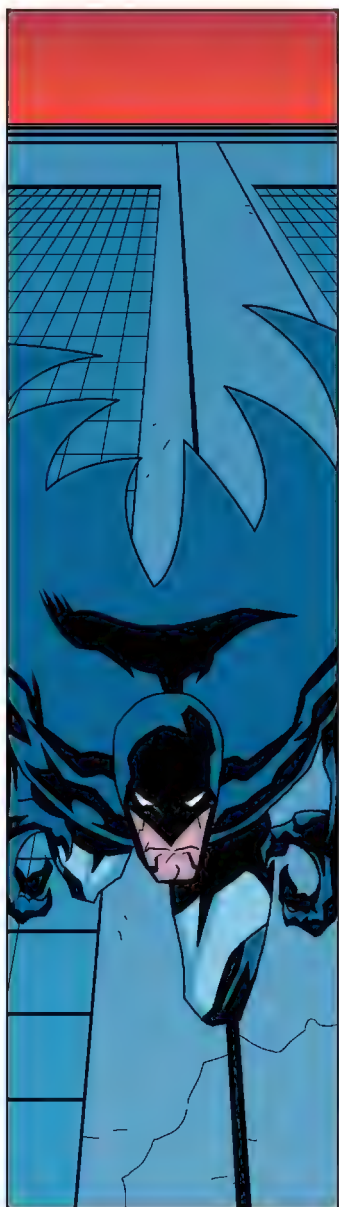


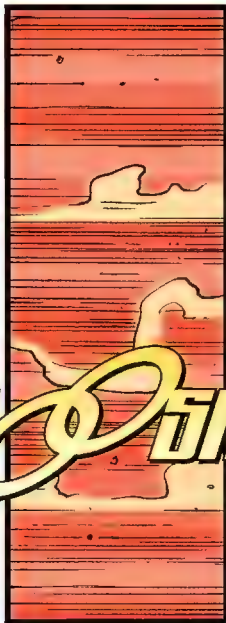
CHATTERBOX.



GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE PRIORITY ALERT. RETURN TO BASE IMMEDIATELY.

I'M ON MY WAY.





(... AND I TOLD HER,
IF I FIND MY STAPLER
IN HER OFFICE ONE
MORE TIME I'M
GOING TO--)

(YOU
BASTARD!)

(YOU THINK
YOU COULD GET
AWAY WITH A LITTLE
"SUPERHEROING"
IN BETWEEN WORDS?
DAMMIT, JOSEF, YOU
SAID YOU WERE
TAKING THE DAY
OFF!)

(OH,
SORRY..)

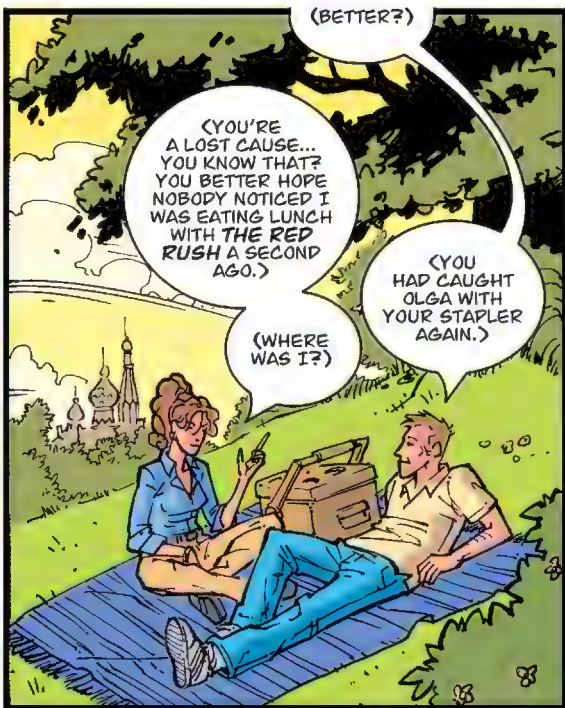


(BETTER?)

(YOU'RE
A LOST CAUSE...
YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU BETTER HOPE
NOBODY NOTICED I
WAS EATING LUNCH
WITH THE RED
RUSH A SECOND
AGO.)

(YOU
HAD CAUGHT
OLGA WITH
YOUR STAPLER
AGAIN.)

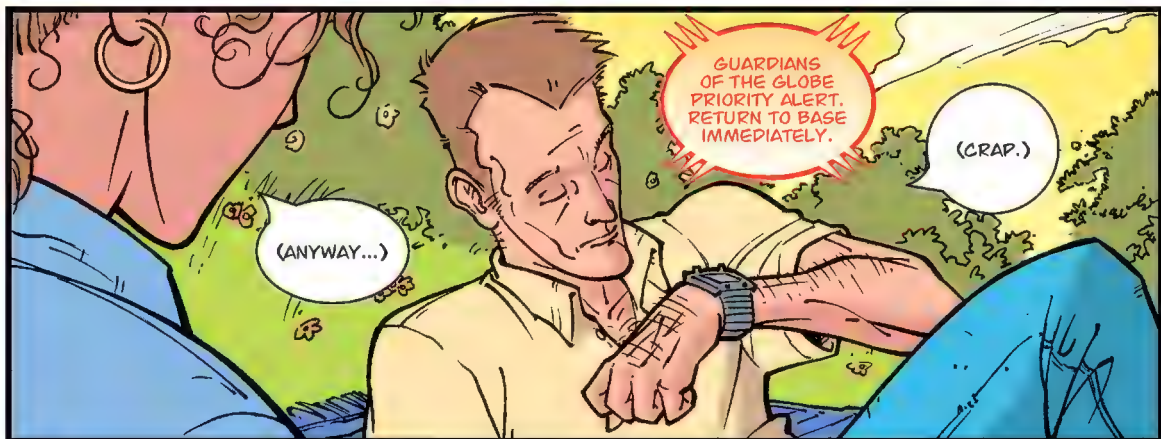
(WHERE
WAS I?)



GUARDIANS
OF THE GLOBE
PRIORITY ALERT.
RETURN TO BASE
IMMEDIATELY.

(CRAP.)

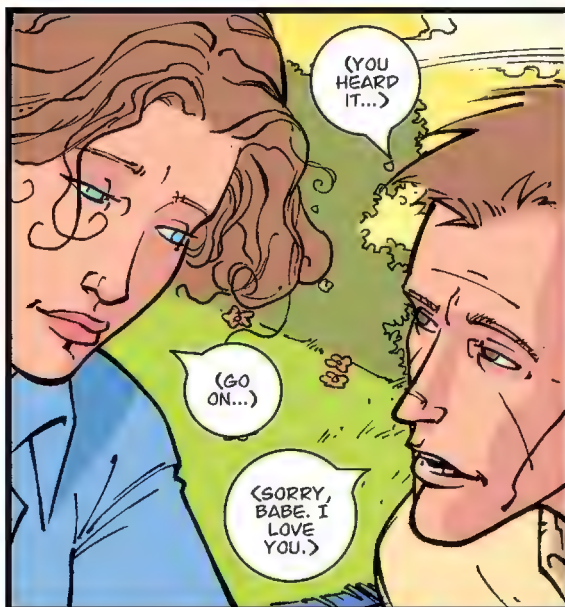
(ANYWAY...)



(YOU
HEARD
IT...)

(GO
ON...)

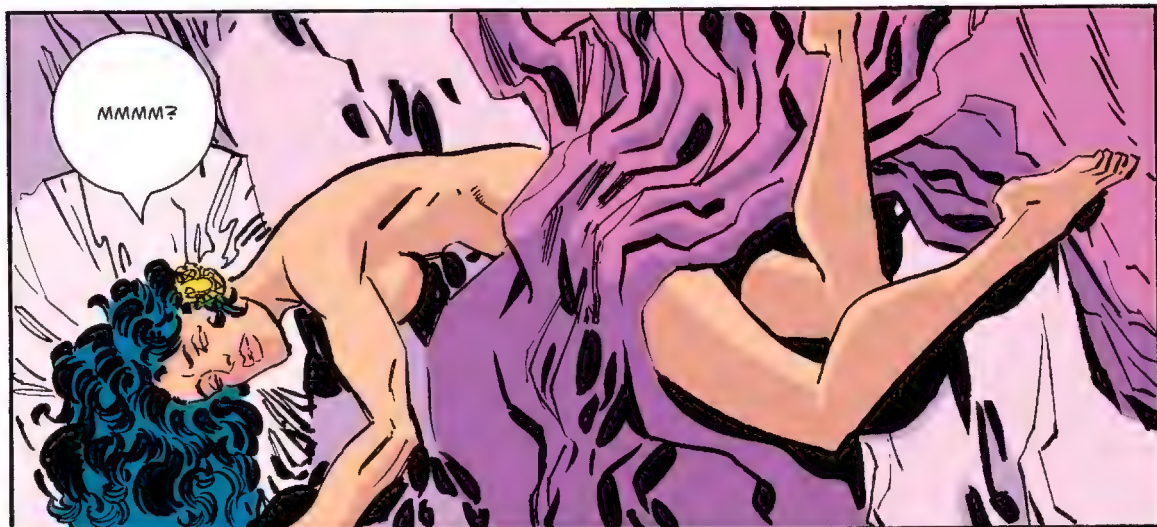
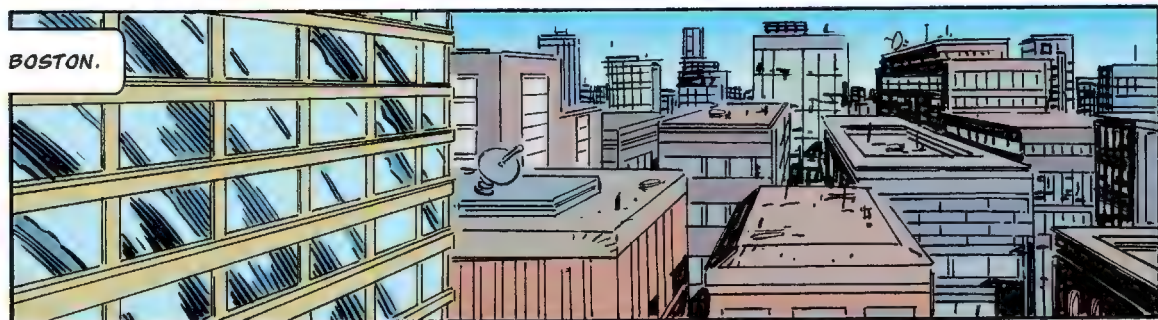
(SORRY,
BABE. I
LOVE
YOU.)

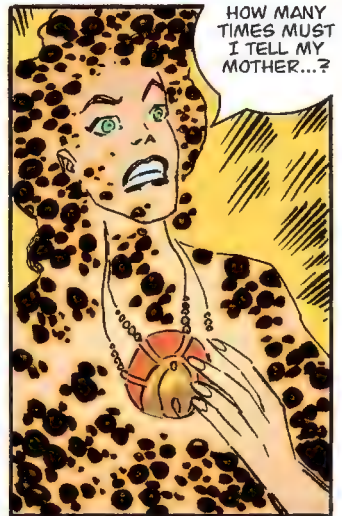
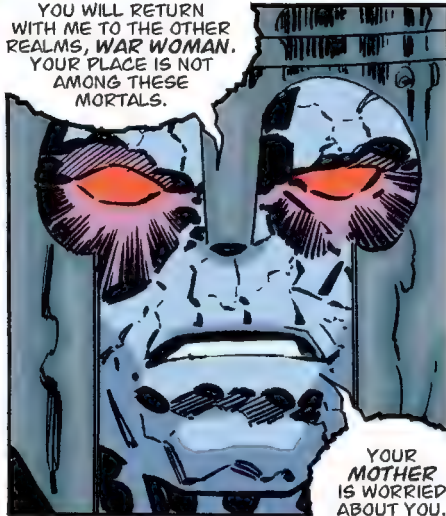


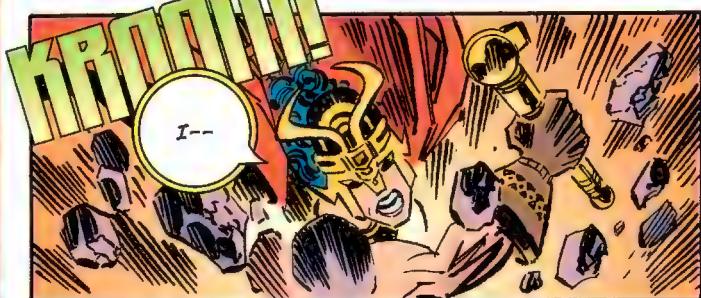
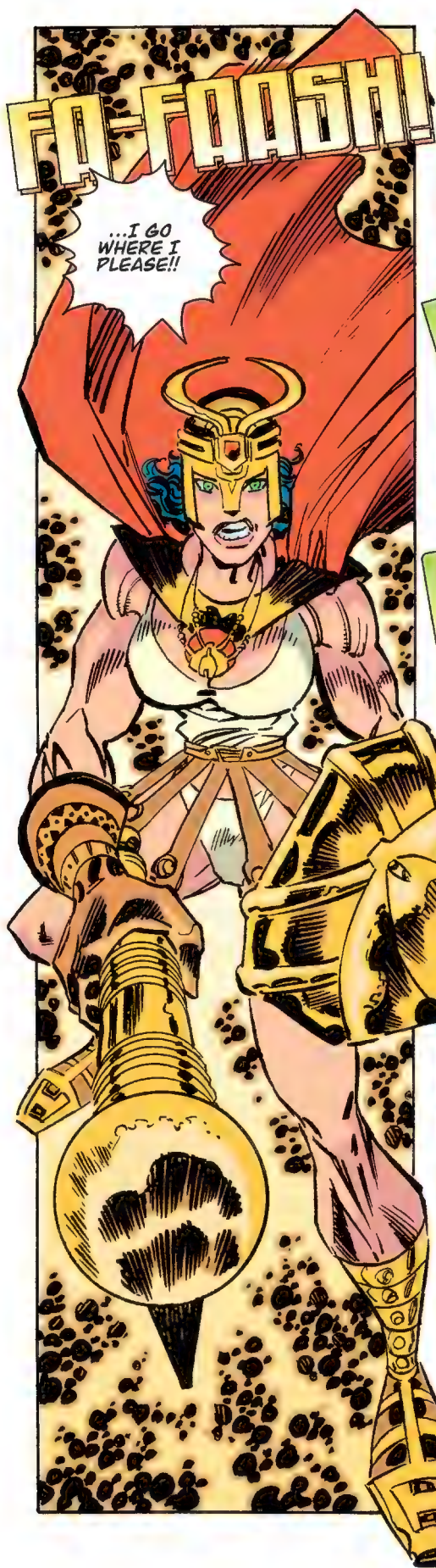
≡SIGH≡

(I
LOVE YOU
TOO.)











WHAT WAS THAT?

SOMETHING FROM MY PAST.

I WILL HAVE MY COMPANY HIRE SOMEONE TO MOVE YOU OUT OF HERE TODAY AND THEN REIMBURSE YOUR LANDLORD FOR THE DAMAGE. PICK A LARGER PLACE... I PLAN TO STAY OVER MORE OFTEN. LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE REPLACING ANYTHING.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

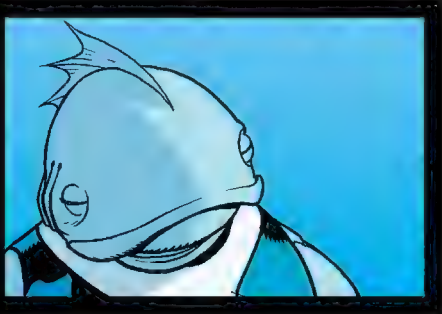
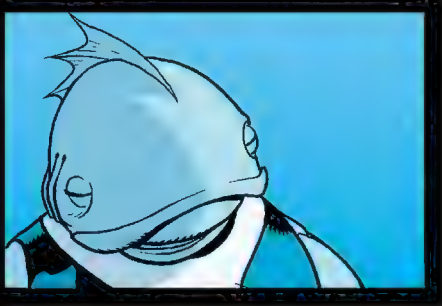
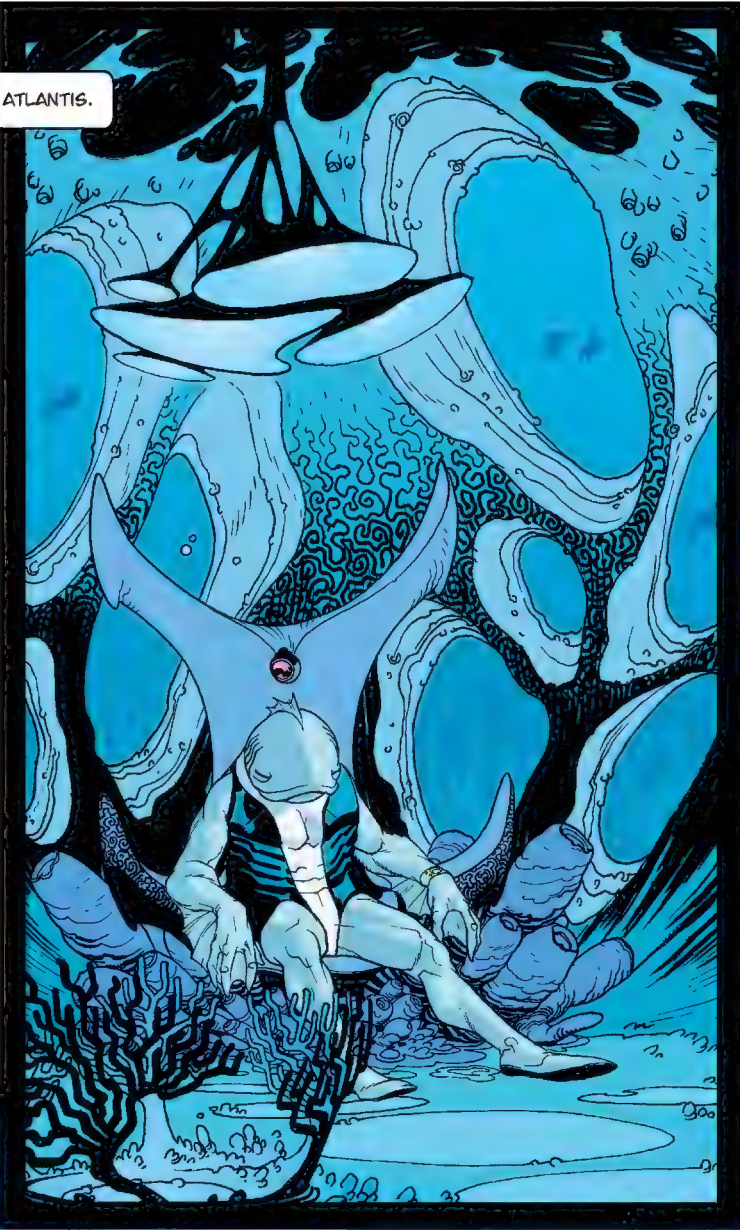
I WILL BE FI--

I MUST GO.

BE CAREFUL.

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE PRIORITY ALERT. RETURN TO BASE IMMEDIATELY.

ATLANTIS.



GUARDIANS
OF THE GLOBE
PRIORITY ALERT.
RETURN TO BASE
IMMEDIATELY.



FINALLY...
SOME
ACTION!

SPACE.

DIE--FLESH--DIE!

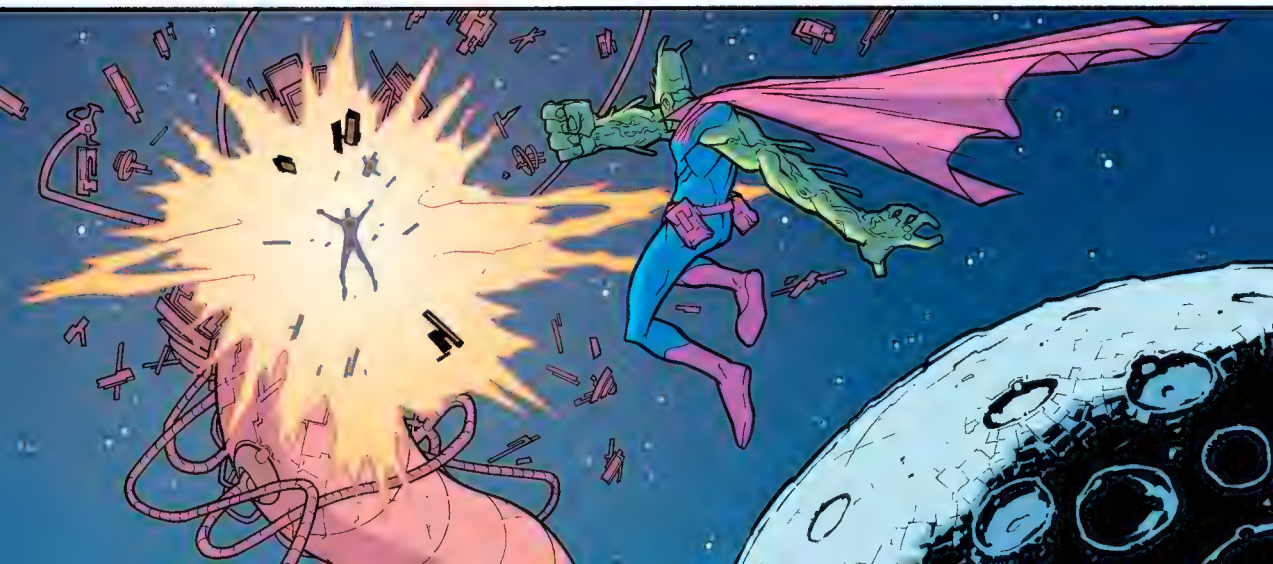
ITS...
CRUSHING...
ME...

QUICKLY...
BEFORE IT
KILLS US... GO
INTANGIBLE...
AND SCRAMBLE
ITS CIRCUITS!

OH,
YEAH... I
FORGOT I
COULD DO
THAT!

HERE
GOES
NOTHING!

DOES--NOT--
COMPUTE!

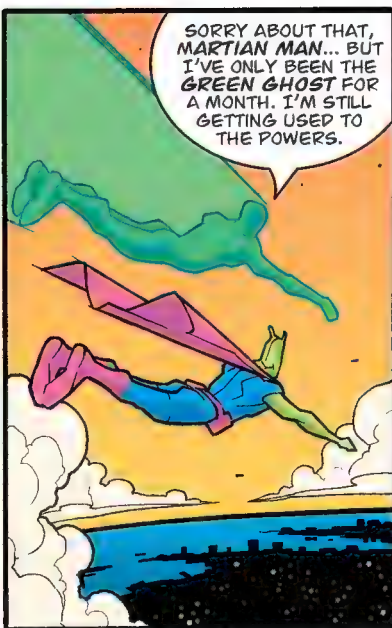


YOU
OKAY?

I AM
FINE... WERE
IT NOT FOR
YOUR DELAY I
WOULD BE
BETTER.



SORRY ABOUT THAT,
MARTIAN MAN... BUT
I'VE ONLY BEEN THE
GREEN GHOST FOR
A MONTH. I'M STILL
GETTING USED TO
THE POWERS.



YOU'RE
LEARNING
QUICKLY... YOU
JUST HAVE A
LONG WAY
TO GO.



YOU
WILL **LEARN**...
I AM CONFIDENT
YOU WERE CHOSEN
AS MY FRIEND'S
SUCCESSOR FOR
A REASON.

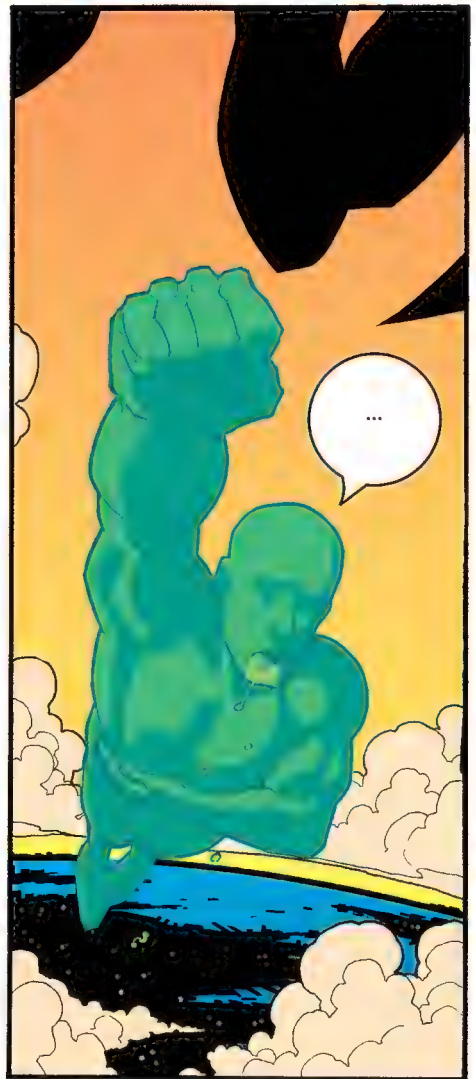
I
HOPE
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

BLANK!



THAT'S
SOMETHING
I'M NEVER
GOING TO
GET USED
TO.





HIGH ABOVE DENVER.



I
THOUGHT
I WAS RID
OF ALL YOU
RIDICULOUS
VILLAINS!



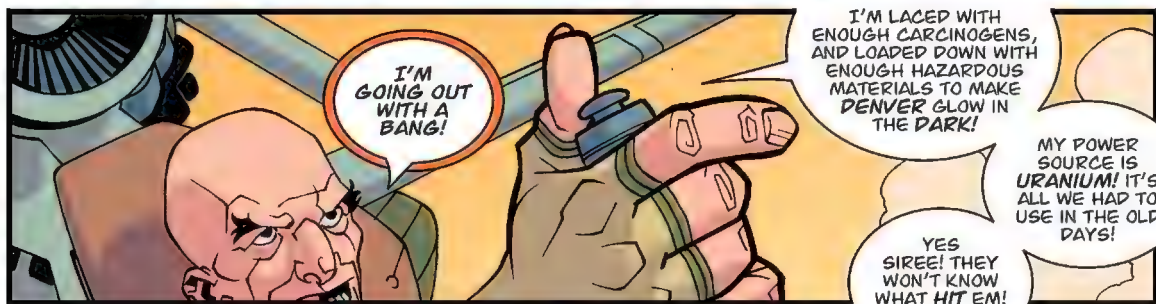
YOU
MAY THINK
OF BI-PLANE
AS A SILLY VILLAIN
NOW, IMMORTAL...
BUT SOON YOU'LL
SEE THE DAMAGE
I CAN DO.



PLEASE,
CHILD... THE
SUSPENSE
IS KILLING
ME.



THIS IS
IT FOR ME...
MY LAST
HURRAH! I'VE GOT
THE **CANCER**... IN
MY LYMPH NODES...
I'M A **GONER**.
DOC SAYS I'VE GOT
LESS THAN A
MONTH.



I'M
GOING OUT
WITH A
BANG!

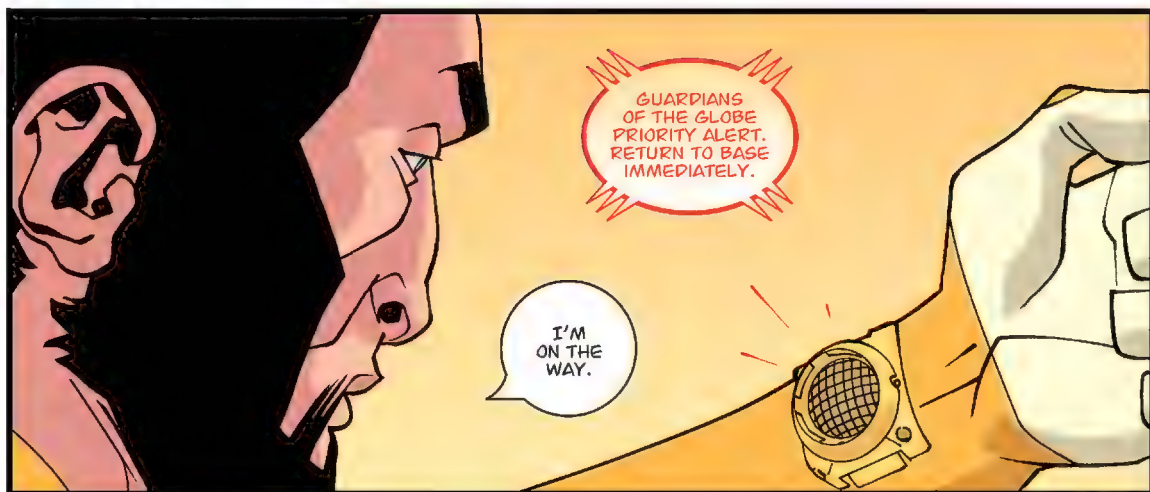
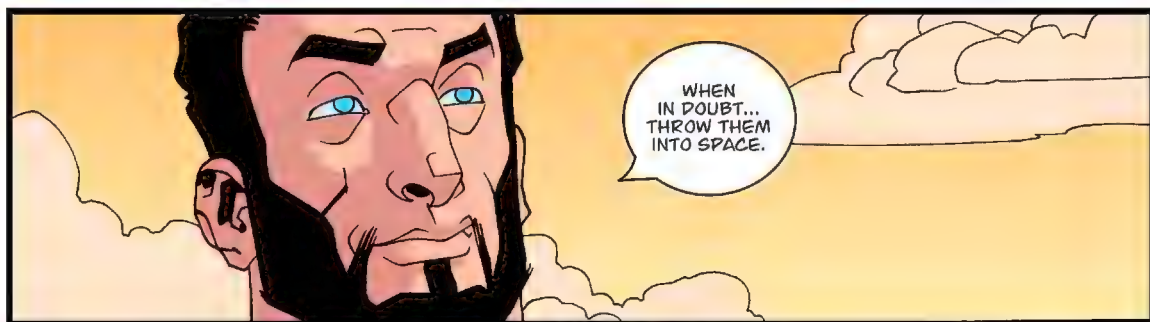
I'M LACED WITH
ENOUGH CARCINOGENS,
AND LOADED DOWN WITH
ENOUGH HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS TO MAKE
DENVER GLOW IN
THE DARK!

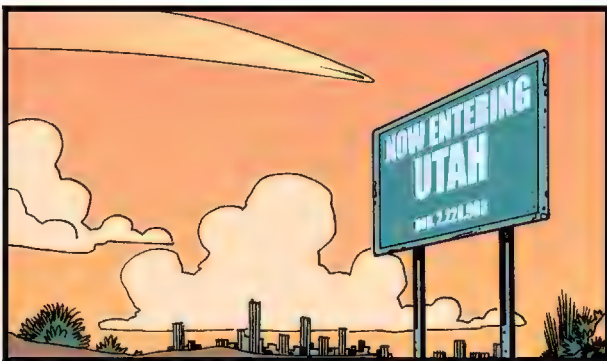
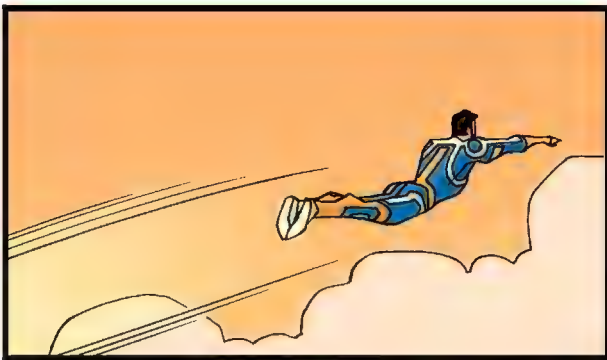
MY POWER
SOURCE IS
URANIUM! IT'S
ALL WE HAD TO
USE IN THE OLD
DAYS!

YES
SIREE! THEY
WON'T KNOW
WHAT HIT EM!



WAIT!
WHAT'RE
YOU--



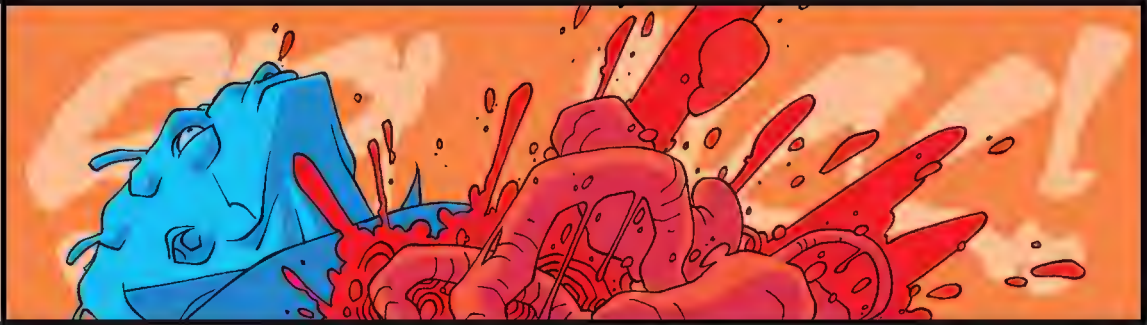
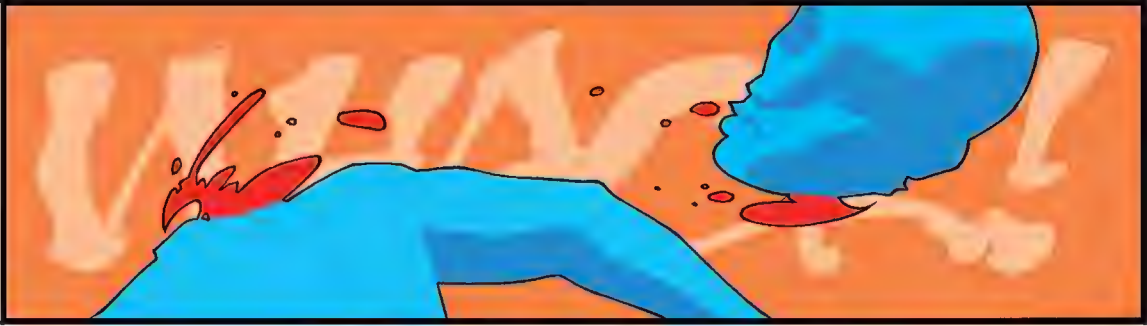




WELL...
WHAT'S
THE BIG
EMERGENCY?

YOU
DON'T KNOW?
WE THOUGHT
YOU WERE THE
ONE WHO CALLED US
HERE SINCE NONE
OF US KNEW WHAT
WAS GOING ON
AND YOU HADN'T
ARRIVED YET.

WHAT
THE HELL
IS GOING
ON?







THE
FEELING
WAS
MUTUAL.



CHAPTER FOUR





EVE?
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

OH,
MARK...

IT WAS
HORRIBLE!

IT WAS
REX... WITH
KATE...

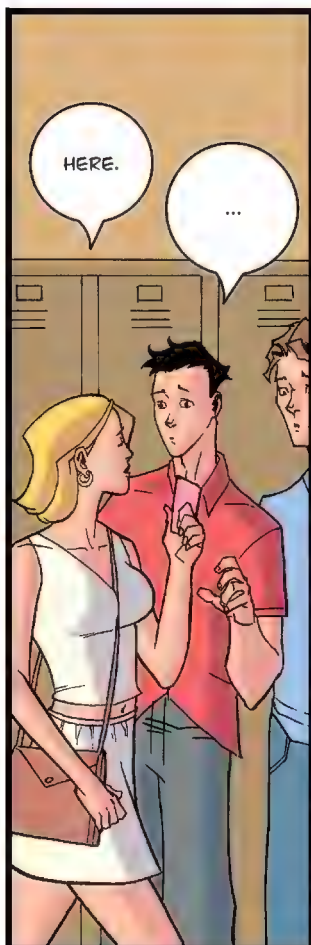
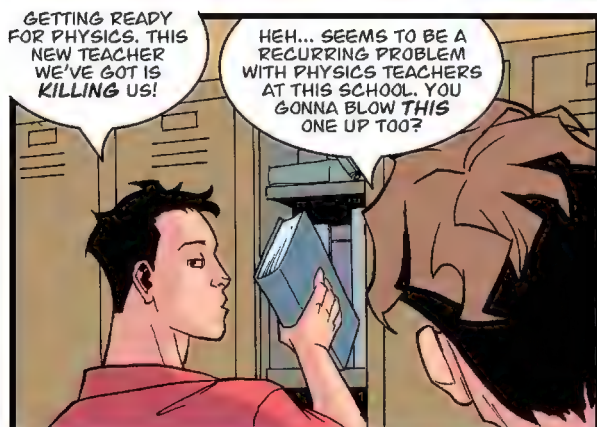
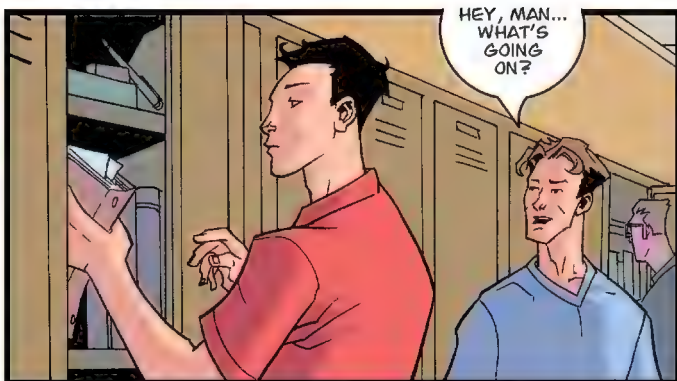
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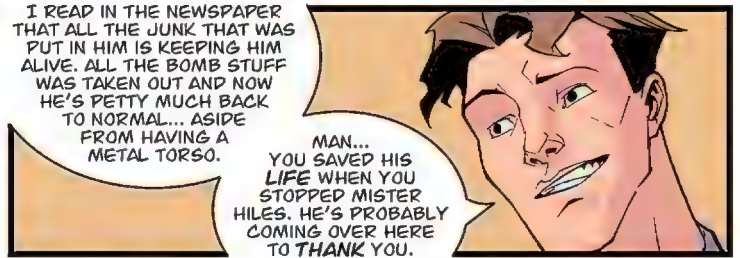
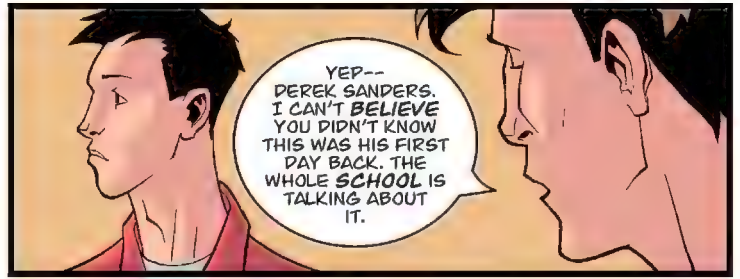
...AND
THERE WAS
MORE THAN
ONE OF
HER!

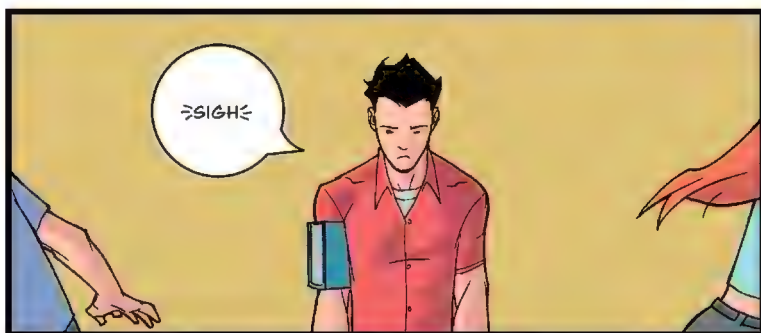
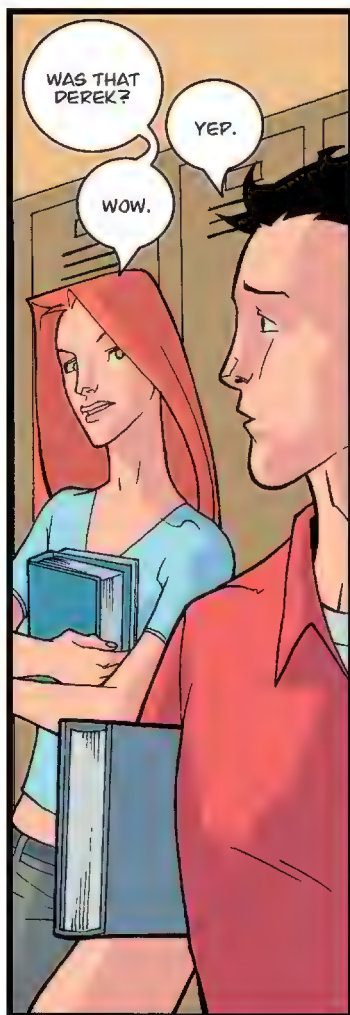
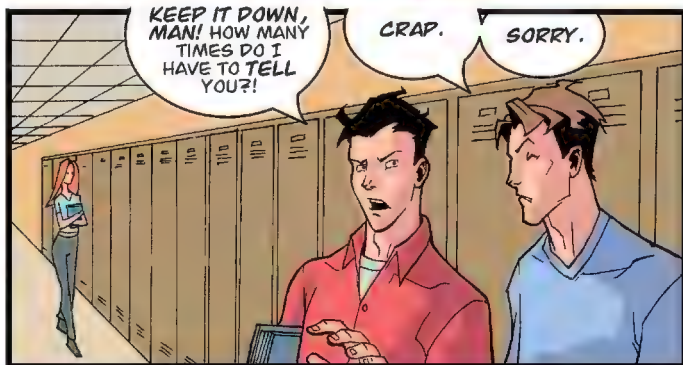
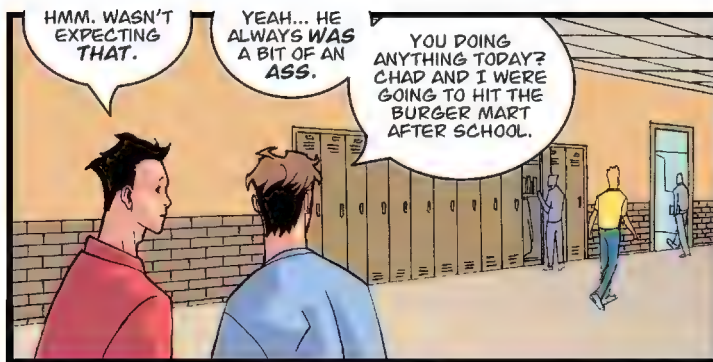


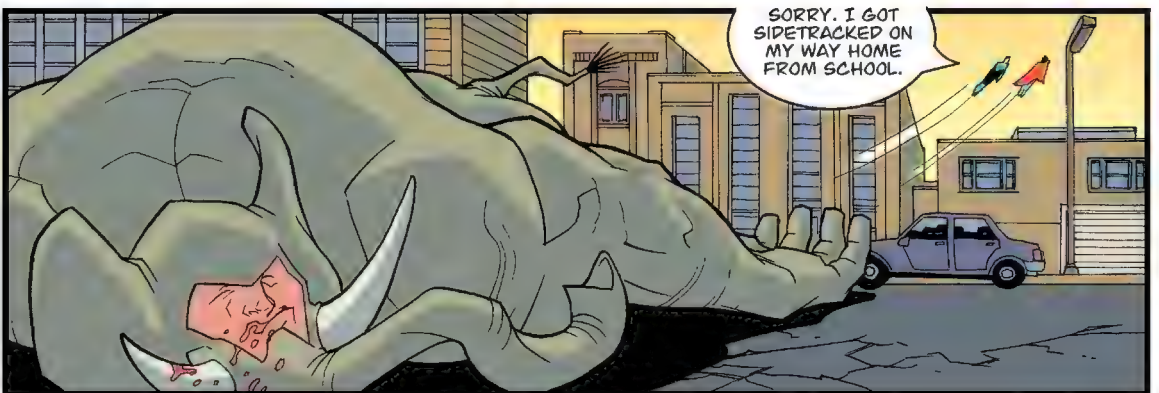
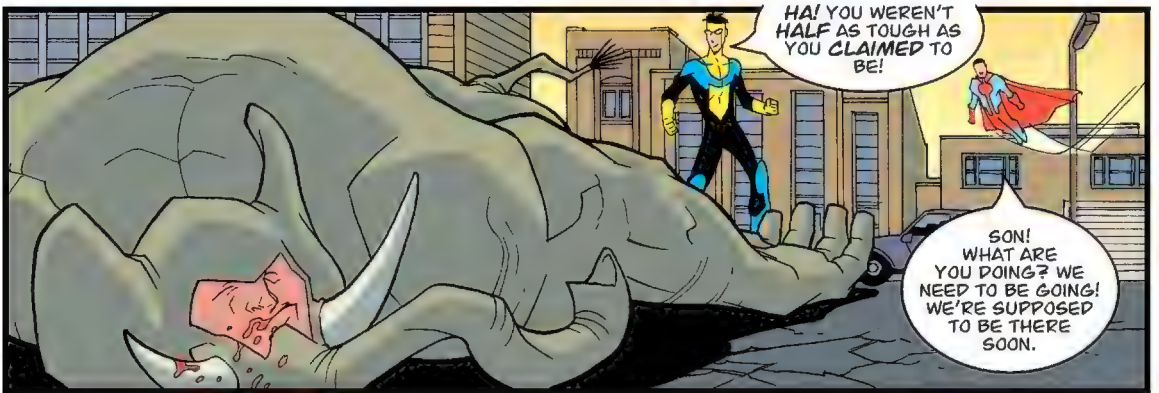




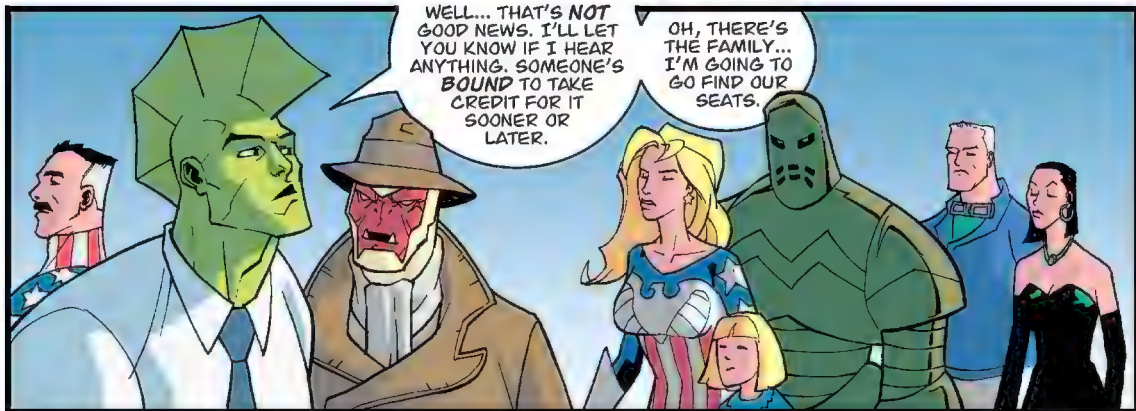










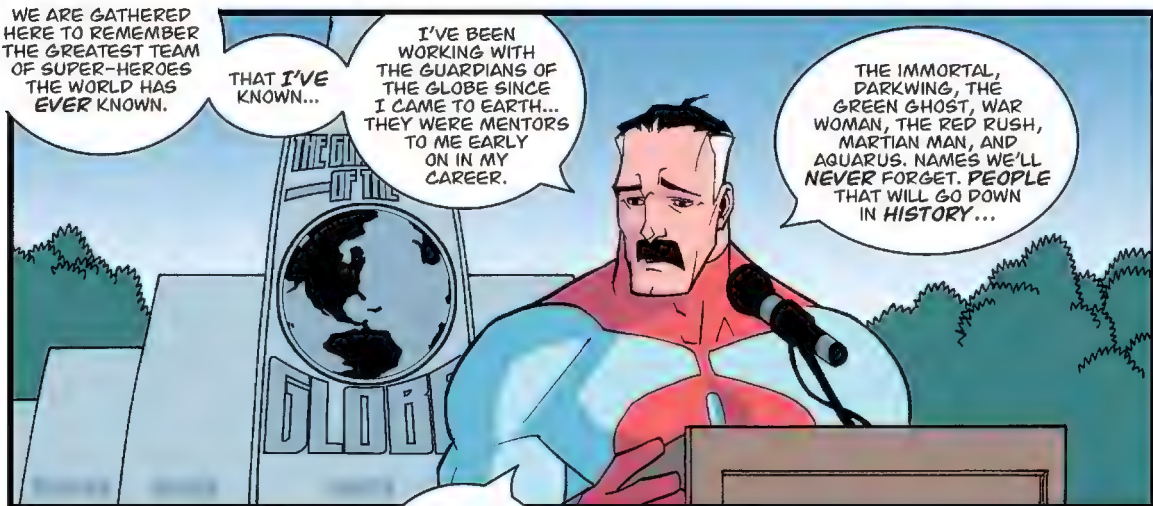


WE ARE GATHERED
HERE TO REMEMBER
THE GREATEST TEAM
OF SUPER-HEROES
THE WORLD HAS
EVER KNOWN.

THAT I'VE
KNOWN...

I'VE BEEN
WORKING WITH
THE GUARDIANS OF
THE GLOBE SINCE
I CAME TO EARTH...
THEY WERE MENTORS
TO ME EARLY
ON IN MY
CAREER.

THE IMMORTAL,
DARKWING, THE
GREEN GHOST, WAR
WOMAN, THE RED RUSH,
MARTIAN MAN, AND
AQUARUS. NAMES WE'LL
NEVER FORGET. PEOPLE
THAT WILL GO DOWN
IN HISTORY...



LEGENDS...
TAKEN FROM
US BEFORE
THEIR TIME.
WE--



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?!



PLEASE CONTINUE...
WE DO NOT WISH
TO CAUSE A
SCENE.

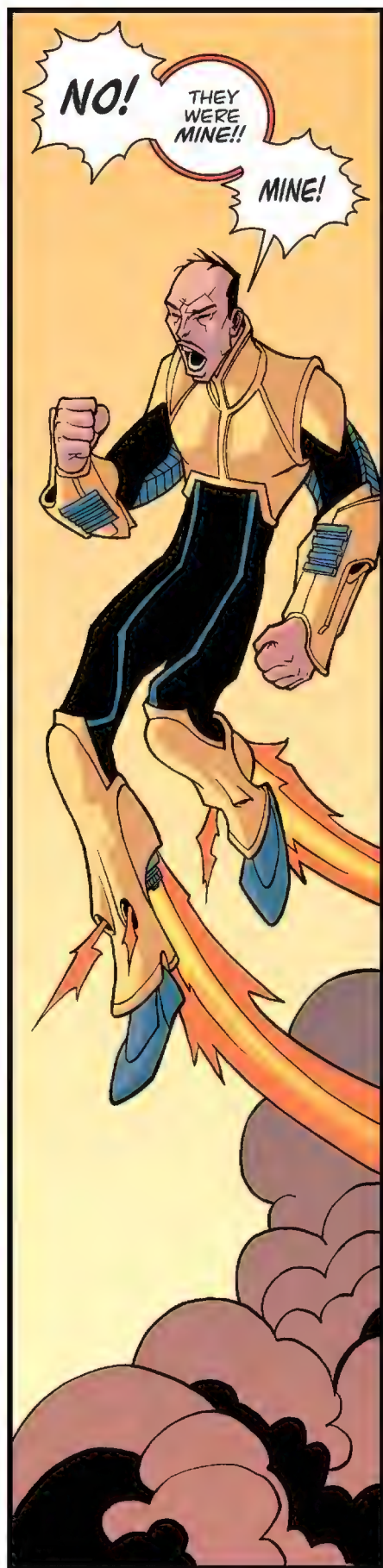
WE ARE
HERE TO PAY OUR
RESPECTS TO A WORTHY
ADVERSARY. NOTHING
MORE, WE WILL NOT
INTERFERE WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS.



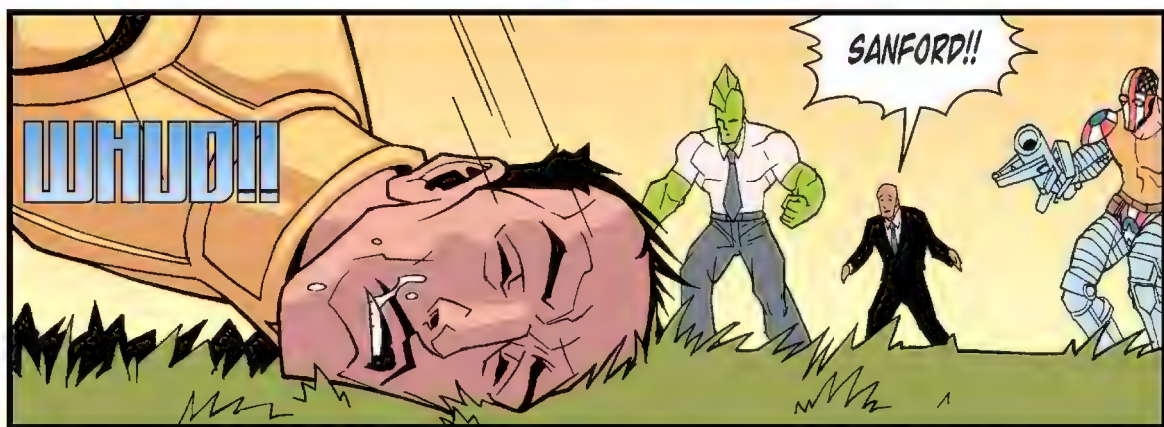
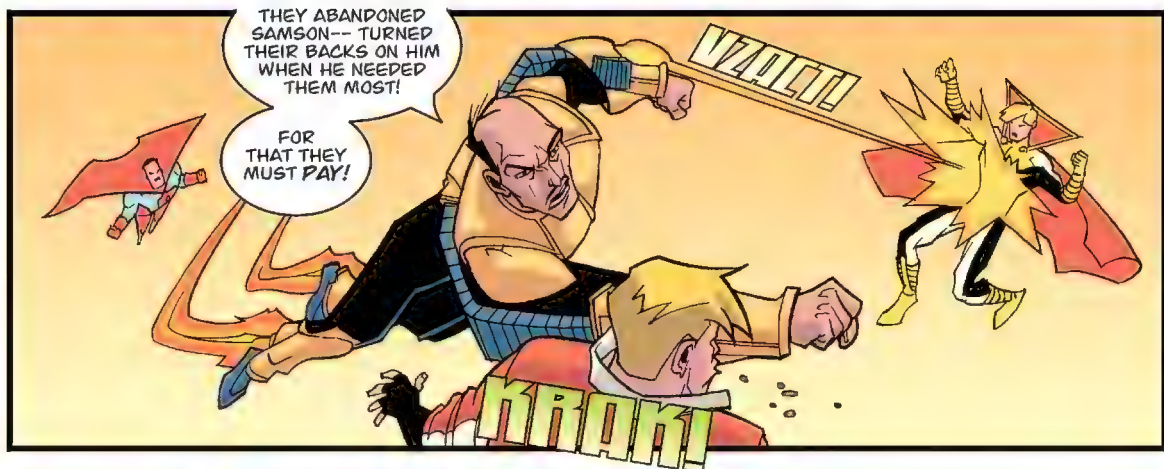
DAD,
I'LL KEEP
AN EYE ON
THEM.

I DON'T
THINK THEY'LL
TRY ANYTHING
WITH ALL OF
US HERE.

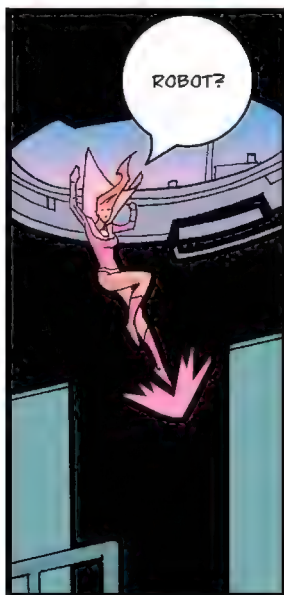


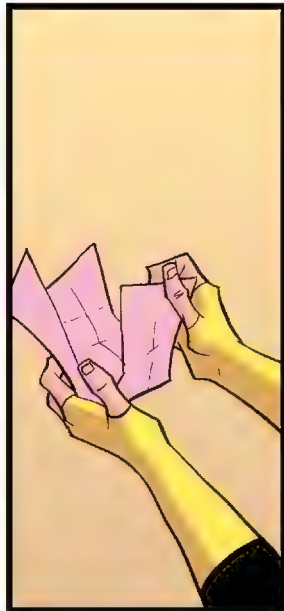




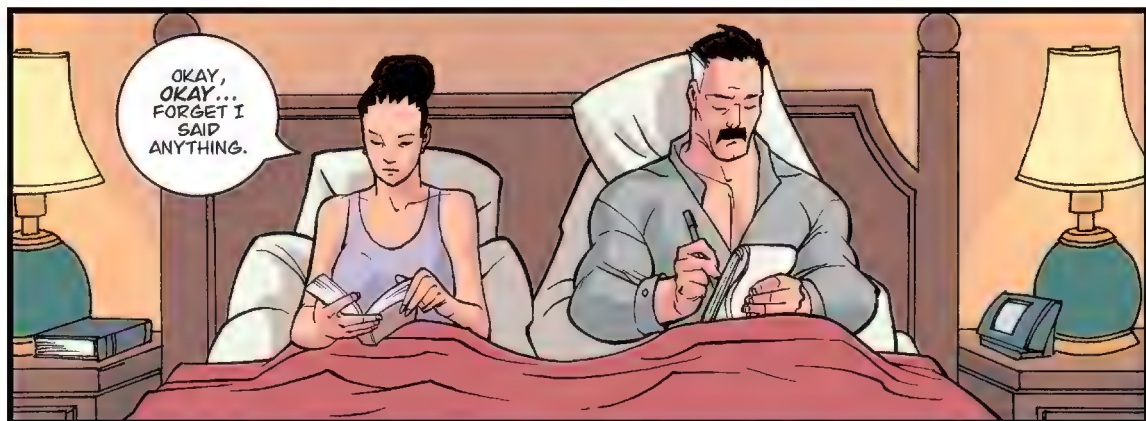
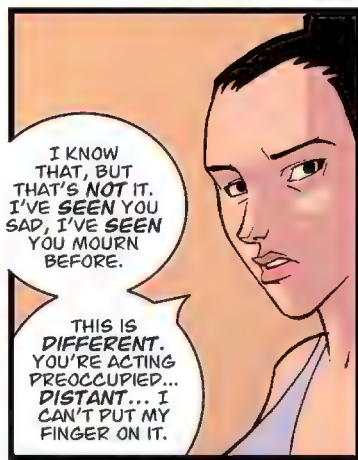
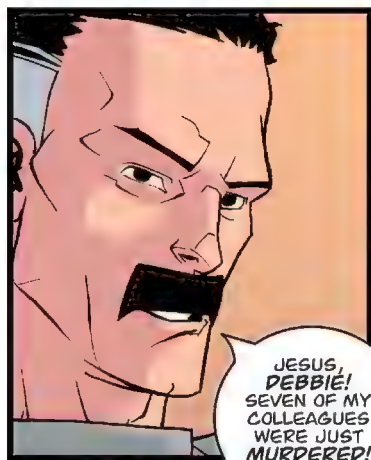
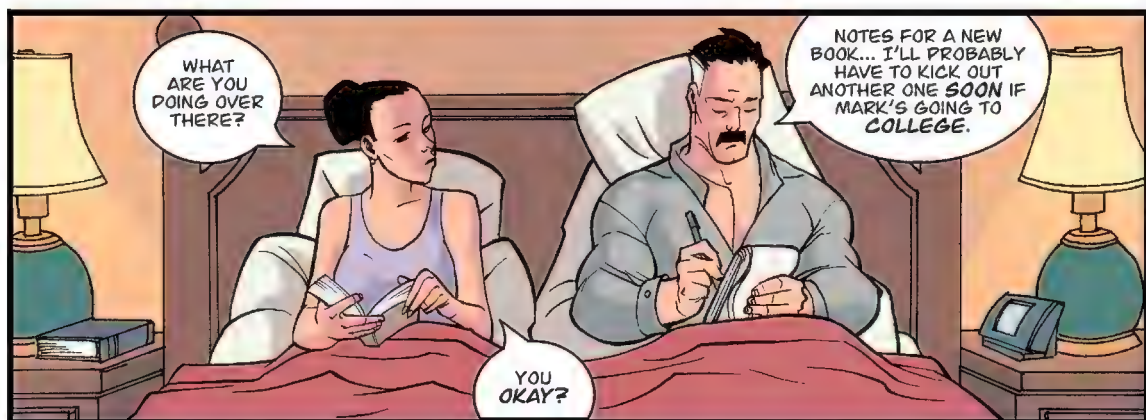


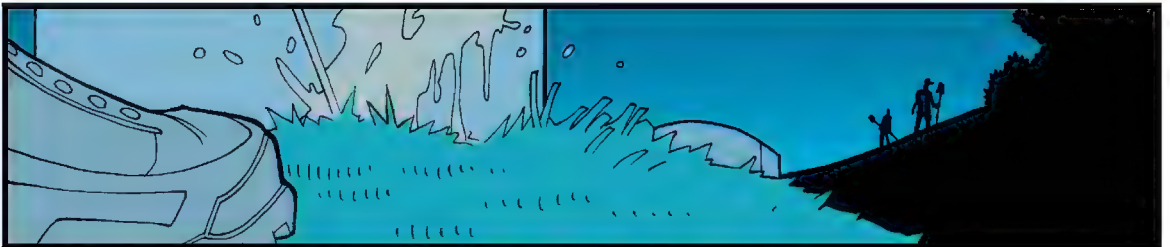
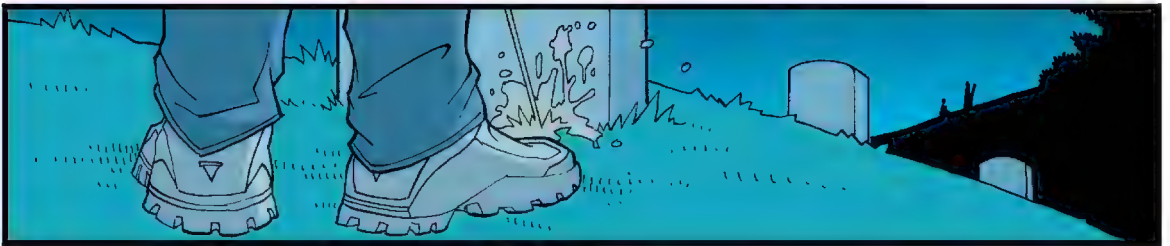
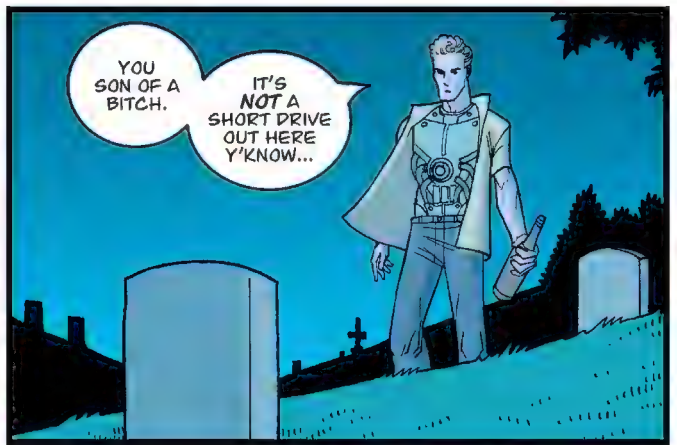


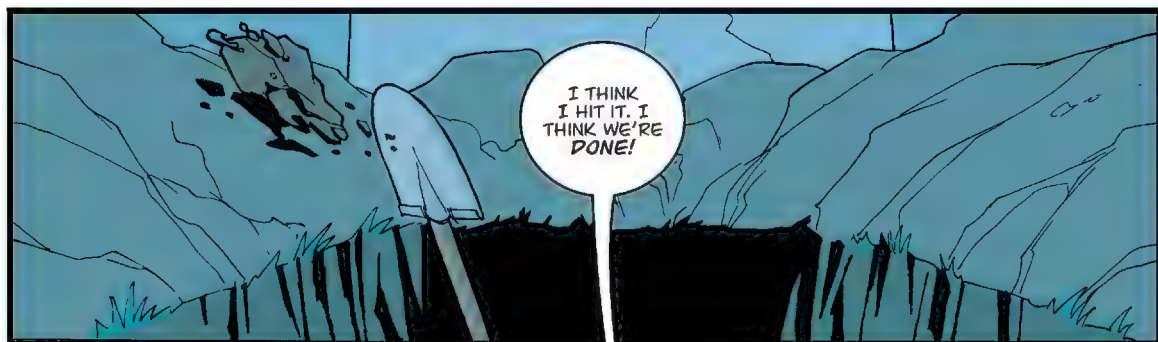








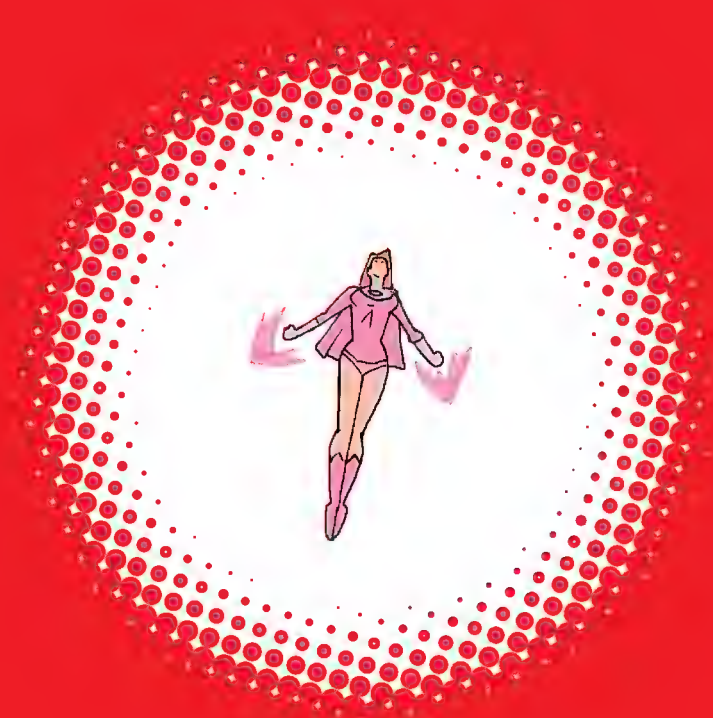




WE'LL
TAKE IT FROM
HERE, BOYS. YOU
HAVE NO IDEA
THE TIME
YOU'VE SAVED
US.

INDEED.





COVERS

SKETCHBOOK



When it came time to do this collection... I'll be honest. I had no idea what to call this book, or what would be on the cover. The first arc was easy, I had that title planned early on, and Kurt Busiek was kind enough to suggest the cover image. This arc was different... it was almost all set up for things that are coming up. Of course, the big Omni-Man event in issue 7 is the most important thing in the book, but I didn't want to spoil that. Then I came up with "Eight is Enough," based on the fact that there's seven guardians of the globe, and with Omni-Man, that's eight. It worked. But then those fine folks at Image laid down more wisdom and said it probably wasn't a good idea to do a TPB without the title character on the cover. You'd think this is something we wouldn't need to be told... sigh. Anyway, changes were made but now you can see the first version of this trade in all it's glory as well as the design sketch Cory sent in before he drew it. Enjoy!





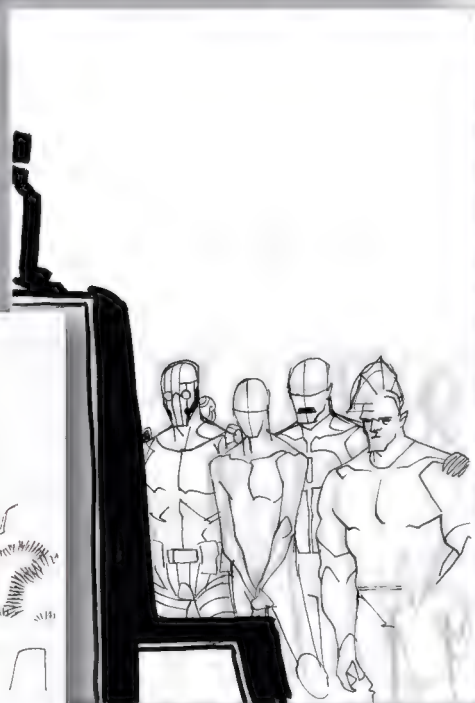
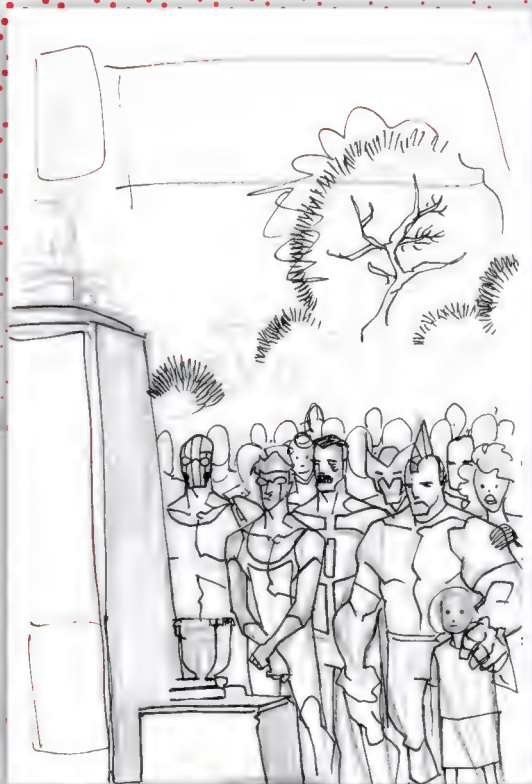
Here are Cory's layouts to the cover to issues 5 and 7. He pretty much nailed these on the first pass. In fact, I think Cory had the idea for the cover to issue 5 before we had decided what was going to be in issue 5. Meaning... he wanted to do Mark floating in space on a cover but had no idea what issue, if any, we could do it on. Accommodating fella that I am... I said: "That's



The cover to issue 6 didn't come on the first try but it came pretty easily. For this one I told Cory: "They visit the college in this issue, and they should fight something there... go crazy and I'll work it into the story." That to me is pretty fun, figuring stuff out based on a cover. Now, having read issue 6 you may think "He didn't come up with diddly squat! He never explained anything!" Well... trust me... we'll be coming back to that eventually, so stay tuned. Also on this page is Cory's shadow guide for the cover. Cory likes to map out where the shadows are for Bill. I think they always look cool and figured it be fun to share just this once.

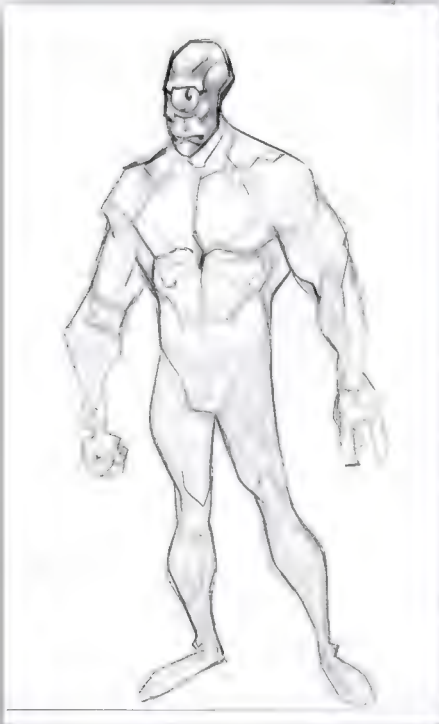


The cover to issue 8 wasn't quite as easy to nail down. Must have been all those cameos that threw him.



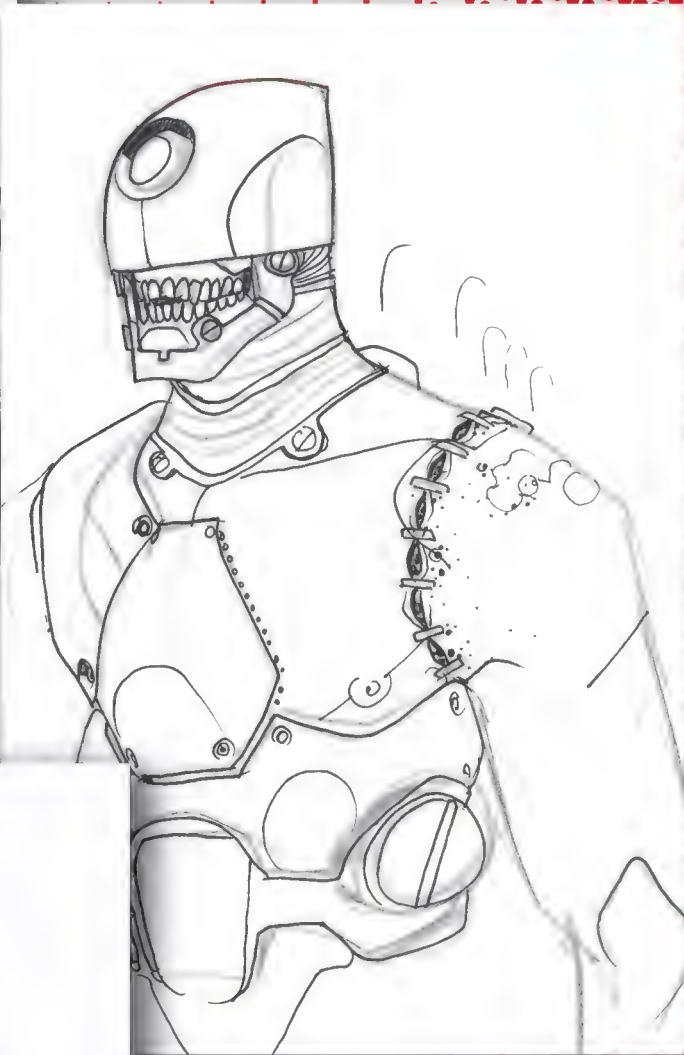
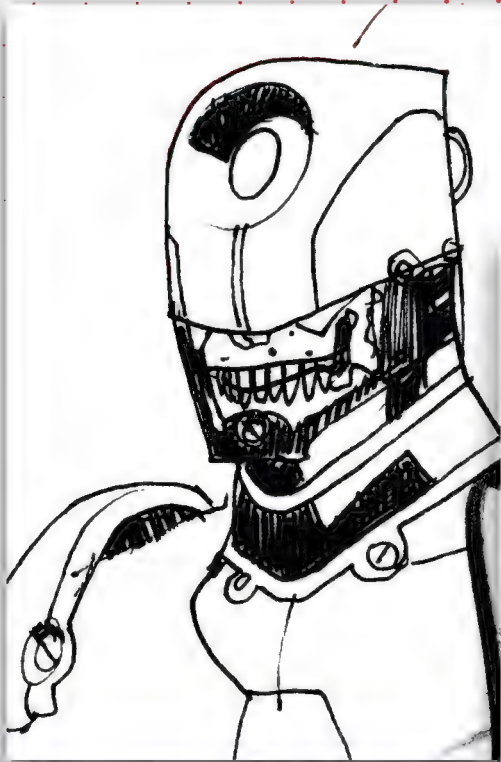


After a brief cameo in issue 2, Allen the Alien finally made his startlingly cool debut in issue 5. We've got big plans for this guy... he's one of my favorite characters that has appeared in the book. I think Cory and Ryan also enjoy the heck out of drawing the guy. I think it's the eye.



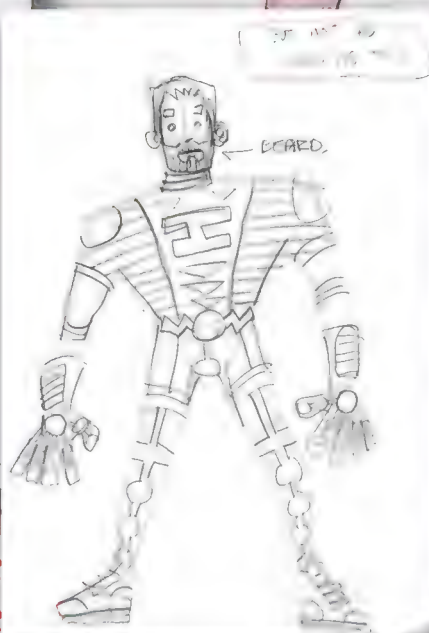
Here are some rough layouts for pages from issue 6. You'll notice that Cory eventually decided the college panel would look better without a background... the slacker.





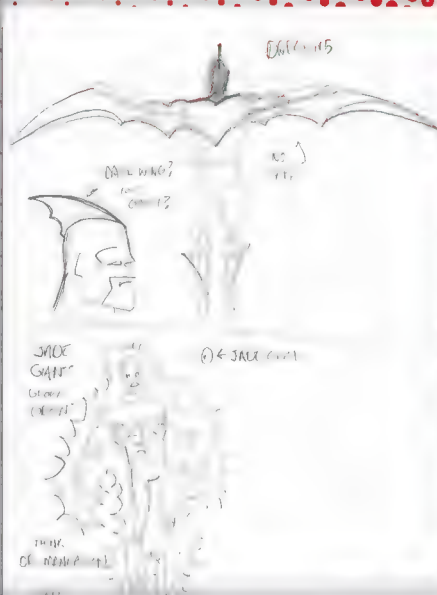
Designs for the "monster" from issue 6. I think Cory did such a great job on this guy... he really is fun to look at. You just can't go wrong with robots with exposed

Now, for the fun stuff. I know that on the surface the Guardians of the Globe look like a JLA parody, but well... that's what they were always supposed to be... I mean... I have 18 pages to introduce them all and make readers care about them before I killed them. Using archetypes is the best way to do that. What I'm getting at is that after everything was said and done... I really fell in love with a few of them, and wished they weren't dead. Case in point, The Immortal... I love this guy. He just looks SO DANG COOL. The ugly one on the page was drawn by yours truly... sorry.



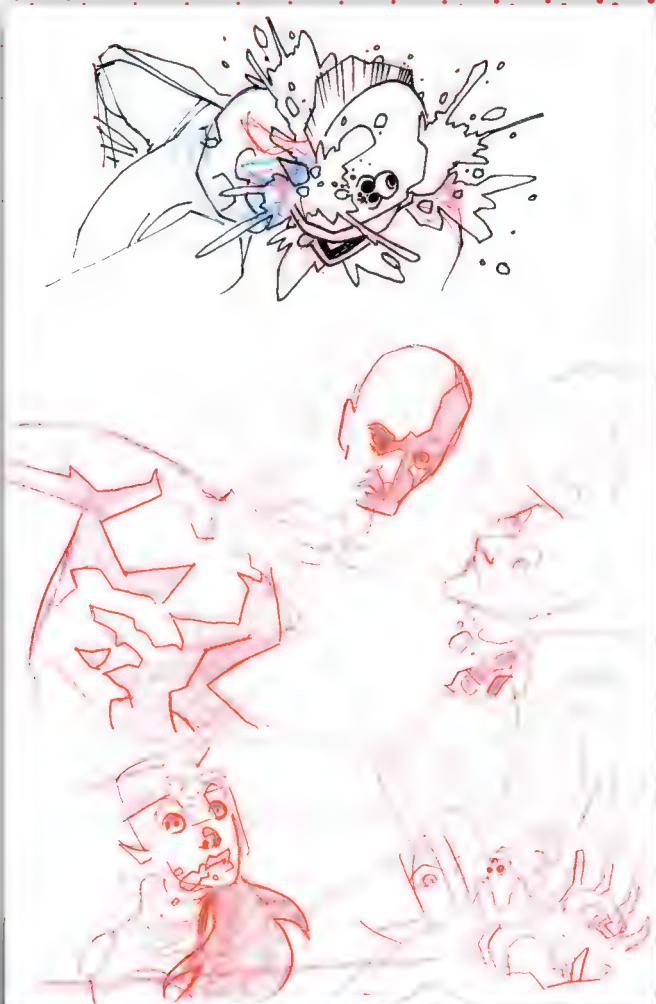


I kinda like Darkwing too. I'm so glad Cory didn't put the wing on his head... talk about stupid design. There's a little bit of Green Ghost action on the page too, but



Red Rush and Aquarus. Man oh man Dave Johnson really kicked butt on his Aquarus page. I still can't believe he agreed to draw that, Dave... you're the

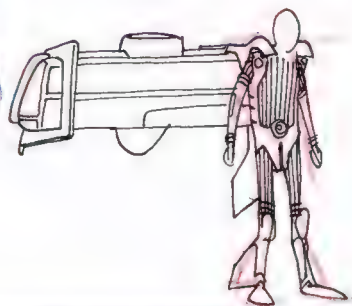




Some sketches from issue 7. I was really worried that the kill scenes in issue 7 would piss people off. Up to that point the book had been pretty much all ages. I wanted the scenes to be graphic so that they would stand out, and then when the page came in from Cory... well... it was graphic. Good stuff all around, Cory draws organs pretty well.



Bi-plane... oh, bi-plane... so cool, so ridiculous.
You WILL see Bi-plane again, believe it or not.





The Elephant is all Cory's fault. Blame him. I had NOTHING to do with that guy.





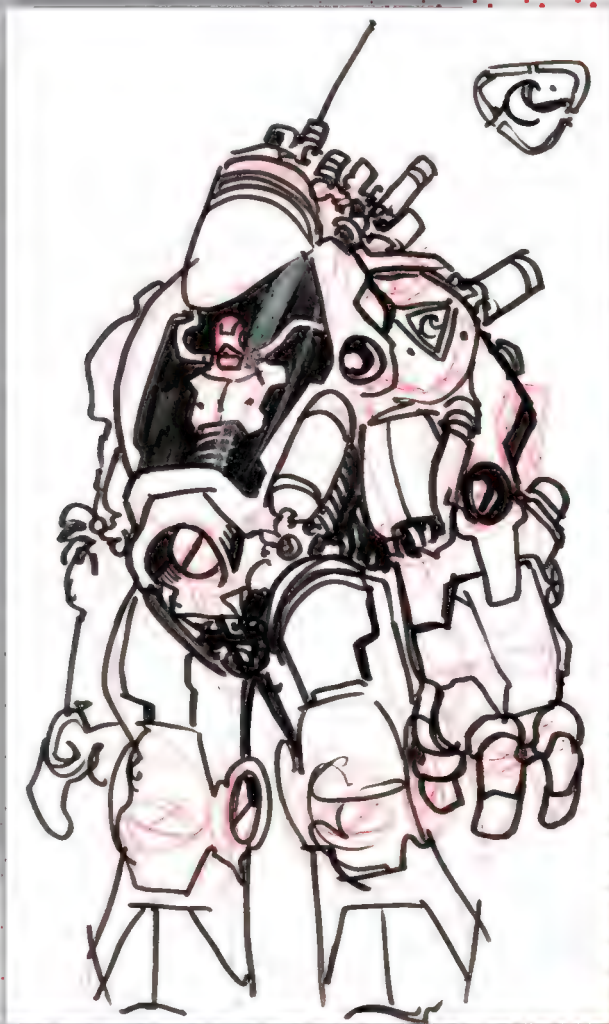
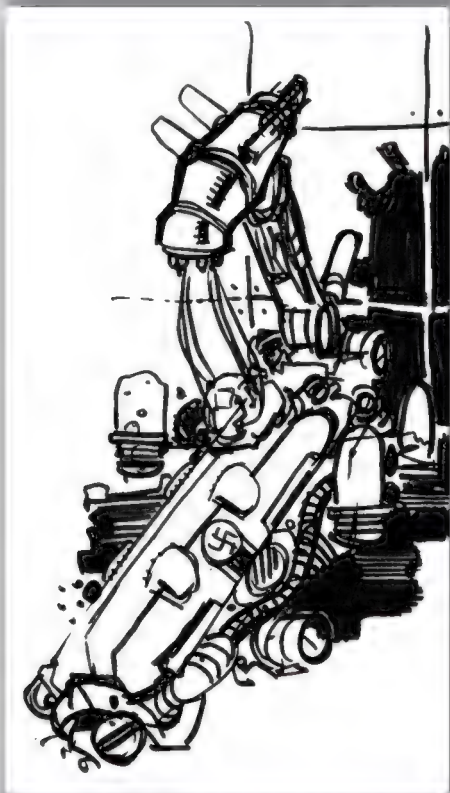
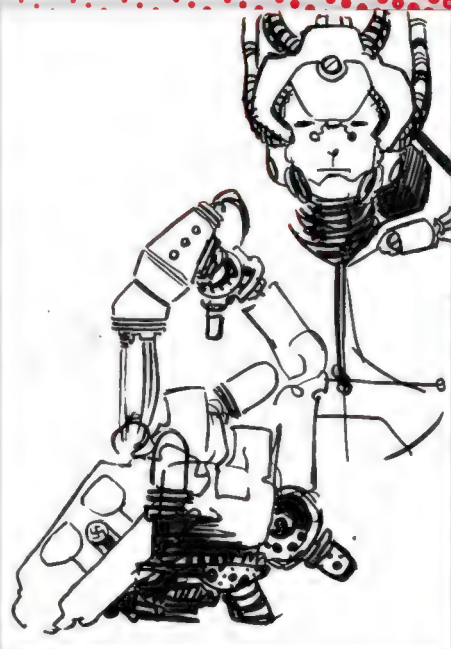
Here are some random headshots by Cory. I like the big one a lot. Over there on the right should be the cover the Hellhounds/Invincible crossover by Cory. I just wanted to make sure you folks got to see it.







On this page are some early sketches I probably should have run in the first TPB. Sue me. On the opposite page here you should see some cool designs for robots and stuff. I like it when Cory goes crazy with the marker... neat stuff, I'm sure you'll agree.





Science Dog is Mark's favorite comic, but it's also a book that Cory and I put a pitch together for before we did SuperPatriot: America's Fighting Force for Image. Cory and I plan on doing an actual comic with the guy one day... but how soon that will be is anyone's guess. Below are the covers for issue 1 and 2 and some promo art... figured I might as well share this stuff and not let it go to waste. On the opposite page there is the illo that appears as a poster on Mark's wall in the book. It's actually a drawing Cory did for my birthday while we were working on the early issues of Invincible. I liked it better than the poster we had been using so Mark gets

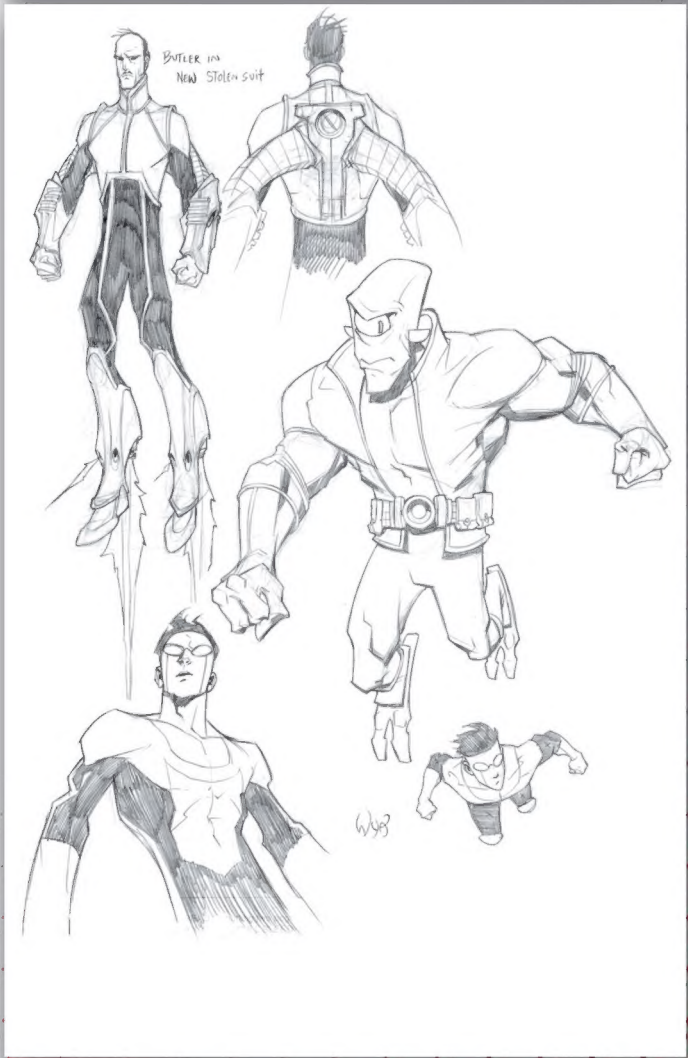
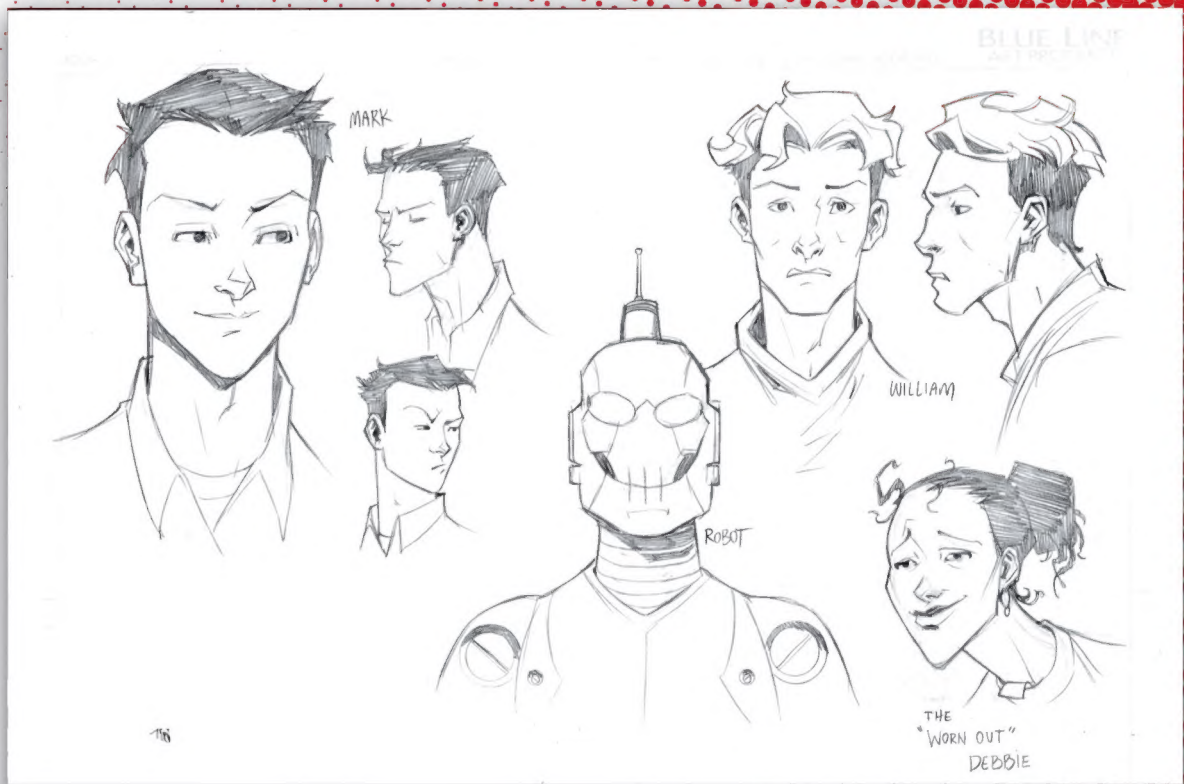


a new Science Dog poster in issue 5. I think Bill has to color it every time... so he hates the thing. On the next page... you'll see a full color page from Science Dog that Jason Keith did as a sample. Jason was snapped up by Crossgen back when they were throwing money around like crazy, he's a hell of a colorist and I thought it would be wrong for this thing to never see print. Feel free to write us and demand more Science Dog... it might actually get us to do the book sooner.









Some sketches from Ryan Ottley, the new series artist. Ryan just dove into the pages of issue 8 so there's really not that much sketch stuff to show. Needless to say he nailed all the characters and I couldn't be happier with what he's done with the book. When Cory started having trouble getting the book out on time, he decided to step aside and let Ryan take over. Now Ryan is blazing through issues at lightning speed, and Cory is working on a project with a much looser deadline that will blow you away when it sees print. All is right in the world.

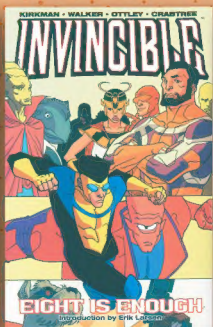
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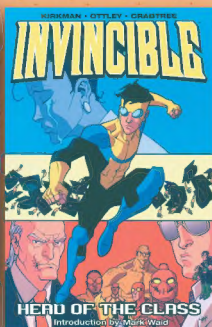
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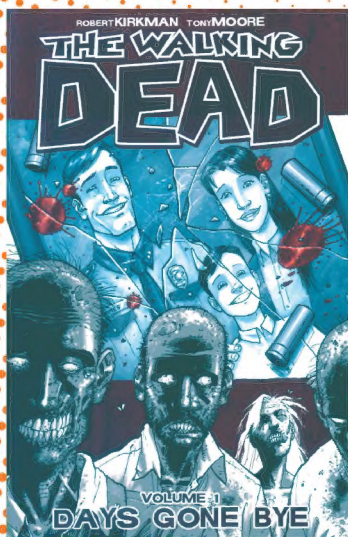
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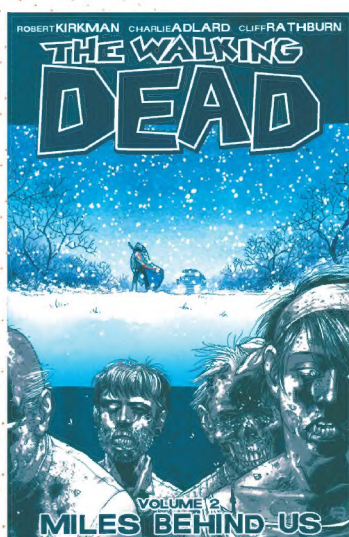
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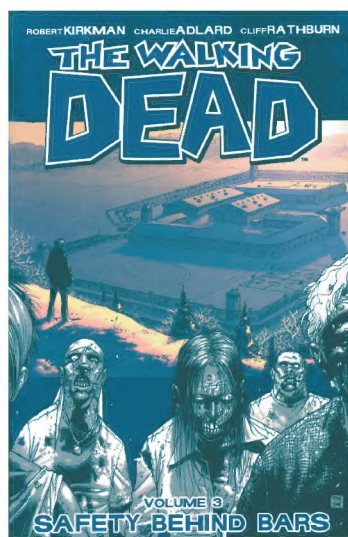
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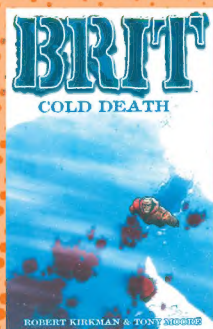
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